BUSINESS / B1
Peso hits 7-year high: 45.25 to $1

NEWS / A6
Oakwood mutineers claim: If Gringo is innocent, so are we

WORLD / A27
Britain expels Russian diplomats over Moscow refusal to hand over murder suspect

2BU! / C1
Undiscovered hangouts, shopping haunts, 24-hr bar, other city secrets

DENR to employees: Your job or your Friendster

By TJ Burgonio

YOUR JOB OR YOUR Friendster account?

In this age of wireless technology, some employers have to come to such terms, ...

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, July 18, 2007 44 Pages / Vol. 22 / No. 228 P18

Ex-Laosen aide faces 10 years in US prison

NORWALK, NEW JERSEY—A FORMER PHILIPPINE National Police officer faces a sentence of up to 10 years in prison on Tuesday for his role in a plot to attempt to obtain at least 20 documents in a conflict to undermine the Philippine government.

Federal prosecutors are asking for the maximum 10-year term for Michael Ray Aquino, ...

Summit to GMA: Stop it

Law experts urge gov't action to end political slays

By Marlon Ramos and Leila B. Salaverria

A HIGH-POWERED JUDICIAL summit ended yesterday with calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a stop to political killings and for the adoption of new laws that would empower investigators to search state and private premises for victims of forced disappearances.

Experts who attended the two-day summit also proposed giving more prosecutorial powers to the Commission on Human Rights which was perceived to be a "more trustworthy" arm of the government than the Department of Justice.

These were among the recommendations made by various working groups at the close of the National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances. Searching for solutions hold at the Manila Hotel and organized by the Supreme Court to stop increasing human rights abuses.

The summit was attended by about 250 experts representing various government agencies, including the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, members of Congress and the judiciary, nongovernmental groups, the academe, media and foreign organizations.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ana Maria Margaux said all proposals made by the working groups would be collated by the high tribunal and transmitted to the appropriate national agencies.

"The summit will remain nonpolitical, ...

AT A GLANCE

- Expand CHR's prosecution powers so it is guaranteed to be "more trustworthy" than DOJ.
- Adopt international law on command responsibility and determine if government can be held liable for damages.
- Empower probers to search government and private premises for victims of enforced disappearances.
- Make killings of journalists/judges/activists a new crime separate from murder/kidnapping.
- Forward proposals to Pres. "with an official cover" for concerned government branches/agencies.

HISTORIC two-day summit initiated, convened and conducted by the Supreme Court to hold consultations and search for solutions to extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances was defined by the wide open multisectoral participation of 250 delegates, including 20 foreign diplomats. While also spelled its success. Here, the hard part begins.

28 more cases vs antiterror law filed at SC

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

OPPOSITION TO THE HUMAN SECURITY ACT (HSA) of 2007 is snowballing.

Quoting Chief Justice Reynato Puno's fighting words against the war on terror's hapless effect on human rights, 28 individuals and groups yesterday added their voices to those challenging the constitutionality of the HSA, or Republic Act No. 9372.

From the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (or the Aglipayan Church) called for the repeal of the law, saying it was "an outright dictatorship [of the democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution" and "a blatant assault on our constitutional rights and sovereignty as a people."

Supreme Bishop Godfredo David said the Aglipayan Church was "strongly urging [the] President Macapagal-Arroyo to ...

JUMP TO PAGE A2

Anakpawis member shot dead in Leyte

By Alexis Pupa in Manila and Vicente Labra, Inquirer Visayas

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE BAYAN party-list group Anakpawis died hours after being shot in Leyte yesterday, the second and last day of the Supreme Court-led summit on extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

Elmer Solayao, whose age was variously stated as 30 and 33, was shot five times by an unidentified gunman on a motorcycle in Barangay 7-A in Baga-Baga, ...

ANAKPAWIS, A2

Puno lost judge-brother to assassin

By Van Contreras

HE LOST HIS OLDEST BROTHER, A judge, to an assassin's bullet in 1977.

Thirty years later, Chief Justice Reynato Puno would help the nation grapple with unsolved unexplained killings using the instrument he knows best—the law.

By calling for a two-day summit on the killings, the country's 22nd Chief Justice has practically signed the dual call Philippine legal system for possible upgrade, hopefully to enable the system to catch up, so to speak, with the gunmen's getaway methods.

Puno's convening of the National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances, which ended yesterday at the Manila Hotel, also seemed to have broken the ice in that record of a passive judiciary and showed how it could be a proactive force.

Only about five delegates at the Manila Hotel's Centennial Hall gave him a standing ovation when he formally opened the summit on Monday.

Everyone applauded as their few ...

PUNO: A conspiracy of hope

Imelda visits PGH, 'scene of crime'

By Fe Zamora

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARcos yesterday walked the hallway of an ...

SAGSAY FROM THE PAST: Imelda Marcos returns to PGH, a beneficiary of her good works as well as the scene of maltreatment reps against her

Memorial to fallen tree: Pining for Baguio pine

By Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—RESIDENTS OPENED their Sunday papers to find a full-page obituary of a pine tree.

The P28,400 notice in the Baguio Midland Courier was paid for by fisherman-teacher Thomas Dawing, who had tried to generate protests against a local university's decision to cut down a pine tree to make way for a three-story center and a water tank.

Dawing said he wanted to ignite the community's anger so it would protect other trees that are endangered by development projects.

Except for a small group of volunteers, called the Sons of Green Movement, who share Dawing's passion for nature, many residents appeared oblivious to his crusade against the action of officials of Saint Louis University (SLU).

The tree was finally cut down on June 18.

The school's action was a memorial to the "Old pine tree, needlessly and mercilessly ...

MEMORIAL, A12

6/23 6/49 DIGIT
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Pacific Gold 6/42 LUZ DIVIS-PHIN
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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy
Dagupan	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy
Iloilo	Partly cloudy
Kalibo	Partly cloudy
Cebu	Partly cloudy
Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Dipolog	Partly cloudy
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Davao	Partly cloudy

House rivals court opposition

REP. JOSE DE VENECIA OF THE ruling Lakas-CMD believes he already has the numbers to clinch a fifth term as Speaker of the House of Representatives but his rival Rep. Pablo Garcia of Cebu has two more cards up his sleeve.

Garcia's supporters in the Bahaihai ng Bikolnong Pilipino (Bangi) party, a member of the ruling coalition, are calling for a secret vote and are also set to cut a deal with the opposition bloc in a last ditch effort to secure the speakership from De Venecia when the 14th Congress convenes on July 23.

De Venecia's camp, which now claims 193 representatives in the pocket, are underestimating against the move to choose the speaker through secret balloting. "Secrecy is the secret for turncoats," said majority whip Rolind Lagman.

But on the possibility that the 33 member opposition bloc may produce some swing votes, De Venecia is not taking any chances.

Both De Venecia and Garcia are set to meet separately with the minority bloc today, purportedly to assess the opposition of minority leadership through a change in House rules...in exchange for a little help during the hotly-contested speakership vote.

A House rule says the second placer to the speakership contest will be the House majority floor leader. This would not be a problem if one majority candidate and one minority candidate is nominated, as is usually the case. But the minor split in the majority coalition raises the possibility that Garcia (or De Venecia) could end up leading the minority.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Zamora, who is expected to be declared the chosen minority leader at today's Lakas-NUCD-UMDP-PDP-Laban caucus at the Club Filipino, said they were "prepared to listen."

"This is not a proposal for us to join the majority. That is out of the question. But we want to hear what their proposals for reforms in the House of Representatives will be."

The opposition apparently hopes to turn the rivalry in the majority opposition into some sort of bargaining chip. Opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro confirmed that today's meetings with Garcia subsidized if a de Jesus/De Venecia (Cayetano) succession likely meant to court the minority's support.

His own estimate is that the majority coalition members are still thinly divided, 100 and 80, in favor of either De Venecia or Garcia.

"No one can really tell who has the numbers," he told the bureau. "What's why both camps are banking on the opposition to settle the crucial swing votes."

In both meetings, the minority's steering committee said it would raise the matter of amending the rules regarding the election of speaker, and the majority's leadership.

Both De Venecia and Garcia had earlier promised not to seek the minority post in case they lost in the election for speaker on Monday.

But Rodriguez said they were something in writing. Yesterday he filed a resolution seeking to amend Section 7 of the rules. Under his proposal, congressmen will hold separate elections for speaker, majority leader and minority leader.

"We want there to commit for there will be no change of rules," Rodriguez said.

Their individual commitments don't mean anything unless the rules are changed, he said.

"They're not binding because the rules are there," he explained. "If the rules are not amended, if the majority will be up to their own realities, their own game. We don't want that. We want a clear-cut rule that will not make [the choice of minority leader] an automatic thing."

Majority leader designate Arthur Defensor yesterday said the ruling coalition was already making moves to amend and update obsolete provisions of the rules "if only to ensure that a member of the opposition gets the minority leader's post.

"We cannot in conscience tolerate the emergence of a minority voice in Congress as this will ruin the integrity of lawmaking," Defensor said, referring to the possibility that Garcia may claim the position if he loses against De Venecia.

But Defensor said Congress cannot amend the rules before the speaker is elected on opening day October 8 Equinox

BARGAINING CHIP. Opposition leaders of the House of Representatives—Rufus Rodriguez, Rolin Golez, Renante Zamora, Darlene Antonino and Satur Ocampo—in a press conference with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Chiz blames partymates for loss of Senate

By Dona Z. Pazolanan

SENATOR SEN. FRANCIS "Chiz" Escudero has lashed out at his colleagues in the opposition, saying they were responsible for their bloc's failure to wrest control of the Senate from the administration bloc.

Escudero was reacting to criticism from his colleagues after it was announced he was going to vote for Sen. Manuel Villar for Senate President when the 14th Congress opens on June 25.

Yesterday, Escudero confirmed Villar had his vote.

Although Villar has for reelection last May under the Genuine Opposition ticket, opositionists in the Senate preferred that administration anti-critic Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel be their candidate.

Villar is still but narrowly behind as the Speaker after all counted proper President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial through the House and up to the Senate for trial.

Escudero said the Senate presidency was about "personalities, not issues."

"Ang sa pinakabuod ito ay hindi nag-ag iyan. (This is a clash of personalities, not issues)," he said.

He said he gave Villar his "personal commitment" short-ly after the May 14 election.

"He was the incumbent Senate President. He ran with the opposition. So one had indicated that they were interested in the position. I don't see any reason how or why one would not be given that commitment," Escudero told reporters in his new Senate office yesterday.

Although eight of the 12 senators elected in May were with the Genuine Opposition, the Senate opposition bloc failed to muster the minimum 13 votes needed to take the Senate presidency.

Villar cannot in the administration bloc to get 13 votes. He had the support of eight administration senators (including newly proclaimed Juan Miguel Zubiri), rare independent and three opposition bloc senators—Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Alan Peter Cayetano and Escudero.

Pimentel received eight votes and would likely remain the minority leader.

He said the opposition would have consolidated to election victory had it chosen to support Villar instead of Pimentel.

"That was an option," he said.

Defiant Bedol questions Comelec jurisdiction

By Jerome Aning

CONTROVERSIAL BARANGGAY ELECtion supervisor Lintang Bedol showed up at the Commission on Elections yesterday and questioned the agency's authority to hear the midterm campaign spending case against him.

But the Comelec commissioners flatly denied a motion by Bedol's lawyer, Andre Bon Tagum, to dismiss the charge for lack of jurisdiction and appeared annoyed when Tagum demanded that denial be put in writing so that his client could question it.

"We regret we cannot submit to the jurisdiction of the Comelec unless there is a written explanation [of the agency's assertion of its jurisdiction] and we have studied [ourselves] of legal remedies," Tagum said.

Tagum also threw the commissioners' ire after he commented that the case against his client was being "railroaded" and for raising the issue of the Comelec's impartiality.

The sudden contempt charge stemmed from Bedol's repeated failure to appear statements and subpoenas issued to him by the Committee on the National Board of Canvassers.

The NBC had called for Bedol to explain the allegations of irregularities in the elections in Maguindanao, particularly how the administrators from Datu Odin sinsuat were able to sweep the provincial vote, a feat that Comelec itself described as "statistically impossible."

In particular, Bedol was asked to bring the municipal certificates of canvass (COCs) and statements of votes (SOVs) in his possession to support P5.5 (2.0 victory) as stated in the proclamation.

But Bedol claimed the documents had been stolen, forcing the Comelec to look for the other copies of the municipal COCs and SOVs he is in custody.

The Maguindanao vote determined the outcome of the contest for the 12th Senate slot between TUCP Jesus Miguel Dalisay and the Genuine Opposition's Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel III.

Dalisay was proclaimed on Saturday while Pimentel said he would continue to question his victory.

At the end of the proclamation hearing, the Comelec commissioners gave Bedol 10 more days to submit a final supplemental memorandum in his defense.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the poll body would render a decision on Aug. 7, but added that Bedol could still drop the Comelec from acting further.

BEDOL

Marcos energy minister dies at 79

By Abigail Ho

FORMER ENERGY MINISTER GERONIMO Velasco has died in San Francisco, California, at age 79, according to Agnes de Jesus, a senior official of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp.

De Jesus said yesterday she did not know the circumstances of Velasco's death but he appeared to have died from complications of a lingering illness.

Velasco was the energy minister during the martial law regime of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said: "We salute his great in the Philippine energy sector. His pioneering initiatives in geothermal energy created viable business entities which will continue to benefit the country and generations of its people."

It's our 60th birthday.

Reserve your seat early to join the celebrations.

We're celebrating our 60th birthday by giving you even more reasons to book your Singapore Airlines flight early. Simply reserve your seat between 15th and 31st July for departure October through December and receive 50% KrisFlyer bonus miles! Book through singaporeair.com and receive 100% bonus miles! Plus, you'll be eligible to join the lucky draw for a chance to win an additional 60,000 KrisFlyer miles! Of course, there's also the peace of mind that comes with knowing you're confirmed to travel on your preferred dates, and with the airline whose inflight service wows other airlines talk about.

100% bonus miles for tickets purchased via singaporeair.com; or 50% bonus miles for tickets purchased through KrisFlyer membership on Travel Online Exchange's travel agent. Valid for bookings made between 15 July to 31st 2007, for travel between 1 October and 31 December 2007. Eligible for all economy class travel on all destinations except to Singapore. Subject to seat availability. Add-on miles cannot be combined with other bonus offers. If by an error, total redemption is shorter than actually purchased on singaporeair.com the eligible for the 60,000 miles grand prize draw. Participants must be a registered KrisFlyer member to be eligible for the lucky draw. Promotion is eligible for Singapore Airlines members only. Other terms and conditions apply.

5 Customs men charged with graft

By Michelle V. Ramos

FIVE EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU of Customs, including the former head of its anti-smuggling task force, were charged before the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday for allegedly allowing smuggled meat to enter the country.

The Bureau Integrity Protection Section (BIPS), an anti-corruption unit in the Department of Finance, said the five were involved in the diversion last June 2006 of four vans of smuggled pork.

The five were identified as Alexander Arcilla, former executive director of the Task Force Anti-Smuggling; Reynaldo Mariga, acting chief of the BOC cargo disposal division; Erlonisio Morel, acting team/discharger at the BOC in Port Area, Manila; Mario Balbarona, principal examiner at the cargo disposal division in BOC Port Area; and Roger Mendiguit, examiner at the cargo disposal division at the BOC in Port Area.

"As executive director of TFAS, he knows, or ought to know that he performs an important role in the examination and taking of inventory of seized items. For all his shortcomings in the examination and taking of inventory of seized goods, Atty. Arcilla has shown his grave lack of dedication to the functions of his office," BIPS said in the complaint.

BIPS also said that Rick Mercangel and Alfred were also liable because they failed to completely examine and take an inventory of the shipments, which were part of their duties.

Co siblings swap claims over Green Cross

By Leilch B. Salaverria

THE FORMER CEO of Green Cross Inc., Gotiaoco Co, has disputed his relatives' claim that he had sold his shares in the company claiming that the shares were transferred illegally.

Co, who claims ownership of the company which he started way back in 1952, has filed complaints of fraud and tax evasion against his siblings and their children before the National Bureau of Investigation, which then elevated the case to the Department of Justice.

He said his relatives after he borrowed that his shares in the medicines company had been induced without his signing any deeds of assignment or sale.

His relatives, who denied his allegations, said Co had "overlooked" the fact that the shares he had no more shares in the corporation was because he sold them in his family, as shown by the deeds of sale.

Their lawyer Estelito Mendoza said Co may have filed the case because the corporation grew "by leaps and bounds" after Co left it. The lawyer also said Co's siblings have continued to look after the well-being and even gave him about P70 to P80 million.

Green Cross is the manufacturer of the Green Cross alcohol brand and the Lemon Breath products.

Co, the eldest of five siblings, started the company in 1952 through a single proprietorship called Gotiaoco Laboratories. He said he alone paid the P50,000 capital of Gotiaoco Laboratories.

In 1973, the family incorporated themselves into what is now known as Green Cross.

Takeover

Co now says that he did not realize at the time that the incorporation would open his business to the eventual takeover by his siblings.

In his reply affidavit submitted to the DOJ, Co pointed out that when his mother died, he supposedly transferred 300 shares to his brother Peter, the only had five shares, indicating that the transfer was illegal.

In another instance, he said his brother Anthony conveyed 100 shares to Peter, while sister Mary conveyed 200 shares to Joseph. He said both actions were invalid because at that time, Anthony only had 15 shares while Mary had five.

Co also contested the relatives' assertion that his 1986 signing of a deed of absolute sale for his 874 shares in the company left him with only nine shares.

He said that by his reckoning, he had 2,200 shares as of Dec. 31, 1986.

"It is therefore impossible that after I 'sold' the 874 shares on Dec. 28, 1986... assuming arguendo (but the sale is void), I had only nine (9) shares left. As of Dec. 31, 1986, I should still have with me 2,200 shares, which corresponds to 75 percent of the paid-up capital," he said.

According to Mendoza, Co said his relatives had met before former Secretary Raul Gonzalez and had agreed to try to talk things through. The case, however, has not been withdrawn.

In counter- and rejoinder affidavits and documents that Mendoza Co, his siblings, nieces and nephews submitted to the DOJ, Co's relatives claimed that Co had signed documents that allegedly disproved his claim that he was the real owner of the shares that were registered in his mother's and siblings' names upon the company's incorporation.

They also claimed that he signed under oath documents showing that he had sold all his shares in Green Cross to his parents and siblings between 1976 and 1986, and that he had assigned the bonds to the company in the early 1970s.

Paid for

Citing the company's incorporation papers, Co's relatives said that his mother and their siblings paid for their shares upon the company's incorporation and that they "at all times exercised all rights of ownership over those shares, with the knowledge and consent of Co, including the... participation of Gotiaoco... receiving dividends, voting the shares, and selling the shares."

The affidavit also labeled as "clearly fabricated" the claim that his mother, sister and a brother would not have donated or sold 100 shares each because 1974 and 1976 because they did not own that many shares at the time.

The company's incorporation papers, signed by Co, clearly showed the mother and sister had 200 shares each, and the brother had 400 shares, in their names at the time, the affidavit said.

Chongqing Week starts

THE MAYOR OF CHONGQING, CHINA, Wang Hongju, will lead a 500-member delegation to the Philippines for the "Chongqing Week" activities which will be held in Manila starting today until June 22.

Chongqing is the only directly governed city in western China. Chongqing Week includes different activities, including an Expo for Economy, Trade, Education, Culture, Tourism and Tourism on July 19 at the Manila Hotel.

The delegation will pay a courtesy call on the leaders of the Philippine government and discuss cooperation tasks (the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Education, Tourism, and Agriculture. They will also sign agreements with the government and business communities.

To enable Filipinos to discover more about Chongqing, there will be a China-Chongqing Photo Show at the Main Museum, Old Hall of Asia from July 16-20; at the Music Hall in SM Mall and the Central University. The performance artists of Chongqing will present the award winning Youth Acrobatic Show and Sandwash Face-off Show, complemented with traditional Chinese musical instruments playing favorite Filipino and Chinese songs.

The mayor chief of Chongqing will display the world renowned Chongqing hotpot and hotspot at the Manila Hotel. Dozens of colleges and universities in Chongqing will also answer the questions regarding study in that city during the fair session Expo.

Corrections

IN THE JULY 11 ISSUE, a story on Page A6—"Police barred may 'promote'"—misstated Ricardo Marcelino's position in the Department of National Defense. Marcelino is an undersecretary—not the secretary—of the DND.

IN THE JULY 12 ISSUE, a front page article—"Sison Ignores identified as new Abu Sayyaf chief"—misspelled the name of the ethnic group to which Ignasi belongs. The new Abu Sayyaf chief is Yasing—not Yasing.

IN THE JULY 12 ISSUE, a front page article—"Senate killing more 'later triggered beheadings'"—misspelled the surname of the representative of Basilan. The congressman's name is Wahab Akbar—not Akbar.

IN THE JULY 15 ISSUE, the name of the author of the Talk of the Town article on Page A16—"FAQs on the Human Security Act"—was misspelled. The author of the article is Jose Manuel...not Manuel—Diokno, chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group.

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the caption of one of the photos accompanying Tessa Peremo-Bolido' column on Page C4 of the Sunday Lifestyle section—"My first experience on the Underground"—misspelled the surname of the US ambassador to the Philippines. The ambassador's name is Kristie Kenney... not Kenny.

IN THE JULY 17 ISSUE, the front page banner story—"Senate to investigate graft in judiciary"—misstated the name of the Commission on Human Rights chair. The CHR chair's name is Purificacion...not Leonidas—Quinsumbing.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Shaw Boulevard, Makati City. Fax No. (02) 47-82-98; e-mail address: davidlim@inquirer.com.ph.

Corrections may also be sent by phone or electronic mail to newsroom@inquirer.com.ph, Editor Desk, mail@inquirer.com.ph, or Ace Vea, (02) 47-95-95, Ann Arnaiz, Advisor. Her phone number is (02) 6808 Local 2342.

Oakwood mutineers' claim: If Gringo's innocent, so are we

By DJ Yap

HONASAN

IF GRINGO IS INNOCENT OF PLOTTING a coup d'état, then so are we, said 13 of 31 junior officers on trial for the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny that called for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a supplemental to their motion to dismiss their coup d'etat case before Makati court, the young officers said the facts, issues and charges in the case of Sen. Gregorio Honasan—nicknamed Gringo—were "inextricably interconnected in fact (factual)" to their case.

The prosecution of Honasan, earlier tagged as the mastermind of the mutiny, was a ground for their mass dismissal, they argued.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in a resolution on June 22 ordered the dropping of coup charges against Honasan, who can and were an independent star in the Senate in the May 14 polls. Honasan denied he had a deal with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Contained the petitioners: "It is clear that all covert acts allegedly committed by the accused during the Oakwood incident were in furtherance of Sen. Honasan's National Recovery Program." Thus, "if no criminal liability attach to the alleged mastermind, then with more reason to his alleged cohorts or conspirators."

Lawyer Evenesio Domingo, who represents the 13 officers, filed the supplement in the demurrer to evidence before Judge Dante Principal of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148.

The 13 accused include Captains Gerardo Gumtalla and Milo Maestrecampo, two of the more prominent members of the Magdalo group.

But the other 18 accused, among them Sen. Antonio 'Trillanes IV' who was absent at the hearing, were not included in the motion, as their lawyers said they were content with the original demurrer.

However, they posed no objection to the fil ing of the supplement.

Principal reset the trial date to Sept. 10.

The prosecution, on the other hand, said it would oppose the inclusion of the supplement.

"Our position is that Honasan was not their leader. All of them were leaders," State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera told reporters after yesterday's hearing.

Navera further noted that it was his superior, Gonzalez, and not the panel prosecuting the Magdalo soldiers who exonerated Honasan, a former rebel officer who came to prominence during the people power revolt of 1986 that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

On July 13, Principal dropped the charges and lifted the hold departure order against Honasan on the basis of Gonzalez's resolution dropping the accused as one of the accused in the coup case.

Honasan was tapped as the "Kuya" (elder brother, or in this case a euphemism for the leader) of the rebels who took over the posh Oakwood Premier hotel in the financial district of Makati on July 27, 2000. The move was allegedly the first step in a planned coup d'etat and people power revolt to oust President Arroyo. Intelligence reports alleged that Honasan himself was to be installed head of a junta that would take over the government.

The Oakwood mutiny, however, failed to take off. The rebel soldiers gave up after an 18-hour standoff.

Military verifies claim Abu leader wounded in Basilan clash

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE MILITARY IS NOW VERIFYING reports that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was wounded and his son killed in the July 10 Basilan clash that killed 14 Marines and drew wounded senior officers.

Marine spokesperson Lt. Col. Abel Cavalilan said yesterday that reports about Hapilon being wounded and his son being killed were gathered by government intelligence units and volunteered by civilians in the area but these were still being validated.

Should this information be validated, that would confirm the military's claim that forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked troops from the 1st Marine Brigade, some of whom were beheaded and mutilated.

Asked whether this could mean that the MILF fought side by side with the Abu Sayyaf as claimed earlier by the military, Cavalilan said, "Well, I think the whole story points to some speculation in the same way as you may conclude but again lets not presume the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) is the true object of their investigation and lets see how the overall would be."

Col. Ramon Alcisto, the commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Basilan, said the attackers of the Marine troops were believed to have deployed to execute some in Basilan.

Alcisto said the military was now trying to determine where they killed Jed.

He said the military has started its patrol operations against the attackers.

Meanwhile, Cavalilan denied the claims of the MILF that they had killed 33 Marine soldiers in the Basilan ambush.

"The truth is we only have 14 killed in action, although we have some wounded although I have no news in good condition," he told reporters.

"I think they should verify their figures and make sure the information being released to them by their forces on the ground would now or has to account," he added.

NDF: Talks, yes; truce, no

By Christian V. Esguerra

COMMUNIST REBELS TESTIFIED said they were open to "exploratory talks" in Oslo if the stalled peace talks with the government, but rejected the latter suggested by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

In separate statements, Luis Jalandoni, chief of the negotiating panel of the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and Jose Ma. Sison, the CPP founding chair and chief NDF political consultant, shot down Esperon's proposal of a three-year ceasefire as a prerequisite for resuming the talks.

They said Esperon's proposal was merely "cheap propaganda," saying the plan might in reach this communist insurgency without addressing the root causes of the 39-year-old conflict.

Esperon recommended during the Supreme Court-initiated summit on extrajudicial killings on Monday that the two sides resume peace talks, which halted in 2004 after the communists accused the government of instigating their inclusion on the United States' and European Union's list of terrorist groups.

The propaganda adviced similar conditions set by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, which them called "pyu-wa" from top government officials.

"We get the message that the GRP [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] merely wants to destroy the revolutionary movement of the people either through military force or through the surrender and pacification of the revolutionary forces and people," he said.

Jalandoni said the exploratory talks should address a number of "prejudicial questions" that have kept the peace negotiations from moving forward.

He said the exploratory talks should "aim at coming up with a joint statement of principles relating into consideration the NDFP [National Democratic Front] proposal for an interim peace government for no immediate just peace."

"This would be an important step towards accelerated negotiations on the fundamental economic, social and political reforms for the benefit of the people. Such negotiations could be attended by a counsellor," he said.

Sison said formal talks could resume only after the government has fulfilled three things: a stop to extrajudicial killings, abductions, tortures, mass displacement of people and other human rights violations; a stop to the fascistic bankrolling of the CPP/NPF and the New People's Army; and the indemnification of rights abuse victims of the Marcos regime.

Former rights groups have said the insurgency has led to a military strategy that arbitrarily attacked legal (mass left-wing political) groups labelled as "front" by the government.

The Bantayan rights group claims to have documented more than 800 victims of summary executions like the motorcycle-riding killer of DRU priest Fr. Rafael Papa Arroyo came to power in 2001, many of them political activists who had been vocal against the government. WITH AP/AP

Students to build cheap seismograph

By TJ Burgonio

SOON, STUDENTS AT 10 UNIVERsities will be developing low-cost instruments to help them monitor earthquakes and measure their intensity—formerly the realm of the country's volcanologists.

For the next three years, the students are expected to develop inexpensive digital seismographs and intensity meters, under the close supervision of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

They are also expected to install and use a finished, three-unit board software for seismic data acquisition.

Eventually, all the instruments will be integrated into the Phivolcs monitoring system around the country.

Also in the pipeline is a long-term project to install seismographs in the schools.

"In the long term we want to include these in our earthquake monitoring system. The more sensors we have, the better we can get the parameters of an earthquake for our warnings," Phivolcs director Renato Solidum said yesterday in a briefing.

Solidum signed a memorandum of agreement with Zaccaria Flores, senior manager of Smart Communications Inc. Wednesday, on the development project. Witnessing the event were science Sec. Eliseo Soberano of the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

The project will be developed at the Ateneo de Davao University, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Bataan University in Dagupan de Oro, Notre Dame University in Cotabato, Western Mindoro College of Science and Technology, University of San Carlos in Cebu, Feati, Adamson University, University of Baguio and De La Salle University-Lipa.

Chinese sweets banned

THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS (BFAD) banned nine Chinese brands and sale of four Chinese food products, including candies and biscuits, due to unnecessary food safety, officials said on Tuesday.

Leticia Ruffasa Cabotaje, head of the BFAD of the health department, said samples of the sweets were tested and found to contain harmful substances, such as formaldehyde.

Cabotaje issued an advisory on Monday asking the public to "refrain" from buying and consuming four Chinese-made products, including White Rabbit Creamy Candy, Milk Candy, Peanut Crisp Biscuits and Yong Gang Purple Grape Biscuits.

Importers and retailers were also asked to withdraw the items from the market.

Cabotaje said the health department has tentatively released Chinese food products for sale after Chinese to have banned food safety regulations by including formaldehyde into products.

The Philippines has requested Beijing, through its embassy in Manila, to furnish the government a list of companies in China that had been shut down due to food safety violations to protect Filipino consumers.

Revelations of tainted Chinese goods have grabbed global attention after patients in Panama died from toxic ingredients in medicine and pets died in the United States from adulterated feed while tainted Chinese toothpaste was found elsewhere. dpatero

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Made to move

28 more cases vs antiterror law filed at SC

From page A1

work for the immediate repeal of the IRR in the spirit of truly protecting our people from terror."

"Given the current situation where there is a frenzied persecution of individuals, organizations and institutions deemed critical of the government, unabated extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances attributed to the military, the enforcement of the antiterror law would certainly lead to state repression and provide a license for the military to crack down on legitimate activities and critics of the government," Daniel said in a public statement titled "Unbind Life and Liberty Sinagtala Tierra."

In a joint petition lodged with the Supreme Court, the 28 individuals and groups sought a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the IRR while their request was being deliberated upon.

Among the petitioners were former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, bishops Deogracias Iñiguez, retired Col. Ceroy Cruzabra, Bro. Eli Digal, and militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Gabriela, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Kilusang Pilipinas Laban sa Terorismo at Imperyalismo, Anakpawis, Health Alliance for Democracy and Alliance of Concerned Teachers.

The petitioners said the IRR were "a wholesale trespass for presumed harassment and prosecution" and was in violation of the bill of rights, among other things.

The IRR defines terrorism as any of several acts punishable under the Revised Penal Code, "sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace, in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand."

'Why are they afraid?'

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita responded to news of the petition with puzzlement.

"That's their call. Nothing would prevent them from doing that," he said. "But my question is, Why are they afraid of the law? The kind of complaints many persons in front implementing the law."

But Tesoro said it was not for Malacañang to second-guess the petitioners' motivations for filing the petition.

"Let's just await the Supreme Court decision. I don't want to jump the gun on it. As far as we're concerned, we're just doing what is required [in] the implementation of the law, to prevent the illegal acts, and there are enough safeguards in the law."

He said the Palace would defend the RSOs legality in any forum, including the high court.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the IRR's main author in the Senate, said the lodging of the petition was a good move in that "we will know the real status of the law."

"Only the Supreme Court can determine whether a law is constitutional or not," Enrile said in an interview over dzRH radio. "If the critics have a much clearer definition [of terrorism], they should submit it. There are still amend the law's provisions," he said.

But he expressed confidence that the high court would uphold the IRR. "We did not violate any law. Our requirements are more stringent than those on wiretapping. We either have [more safeguards] or the human rights will be jailed if they do not get prior clearance and the materials they get cannot be used in court."

'Constitutional cosmetics'

The petitioners quoted Pimentel's April 18 speech at the University of the East wherein he described the law on terror as "mindless" and paving the way for "human rights violations."

"It put constitutional cosmetics to the military-police muscular affairs, insensitive usually since [was] using the severity of the state to pass, by the dominance of human rights by allowing arrests without warrants; surveillance of suspects; interception and recording of communications; seizure or freezing of bank deposits; assets and records of suspects.

"They also indefinite detention as a crime against humanity, and due redefinition is broadly drawn to customary and should further the cause of individual rights."

The petitioners said the government, including the police, the military and Malacañang, had been portraying militant groups as communist fronts or terrorists, and that by doing so, it would use the IRR against them.

"While it is true that the present government proposes that [IRR] as a means to arrest, prosecute, convict and punish members of the alleged terrorist groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Rajah Solaiman Movement, the possibility and high probability that the leaders and members of activist people's organizations including progressive party-list groups, anti-corruption networks and even human rights groups are likewise targets for arrest," they said.

Dismal human rights record

The petitioners said the government had failed to curb the rampant

WOUNDED IN ACTION: Soldiers carry their wounded comrade through a stream after a troop descent in Sitio Mirada, Danatag, 3 km from Pirac, Catarman, on Tuesday morning. Two civilians were killed in the encounter that also led to the death of an unidentified NPA guerrilla. CHRIS ESPERANZATE VIA PHILIPPINE STAR

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Dismal human rights record

The petitioners said the government had failed to curb the rampant and impunities who are involved in democratic activities in other countries, and those in forced exile or asylum who exercise their constitutional rights as well as protected rights when they criticize the government and its policies."

The petitioners said the safeguards incorporated into the IRR were "insufficient and "not grounded in reality."

They expressed dismay at the administration's "dismal" record on human rights, which, they said, "speaks for itself as indefensible evidence that the law can and will be used to curtail and violate the people's human rights and civil liberties and therefore be justified with even greater impunity."

They also said the IRR was vague and broad, and that the judicial impediments, rules and regulations, while not necessary, would give state agencies much leeway in enforcing it.

Tolls of oppression

Bishop Daniel said "the heavy yoke of oppression" was again being imposed on Filipinos with the enforcement of the IRR beginning July 15.

"We believe that this antiterror law poses more frightening consequences rather than offering solutions to the situation it seeks to address," he said.

He said the Anglican Church also believed that the law would "only exacerbate the resource rights violations in the country and the socio-economic unrest and civil liberties and democratic rights."

According to David, neither the government nor the military has the legal authority and moral right to "determine the people and violate their lives even during their rights.

"To do [so] is illegal and immoral, at, more aptly, terroristic," he said. "The IRR, in essence, is a malevolent embodiment of ten-to-one unscrupulous policy that provides a tool of terror to the hands of a virtual military state."

He also said the IRR would provide the police and the military "more latitude" for unwarranted, warrantless and arbitrary arrests, abductions, and illegal detention of dissenters.

Priests' killings unsolved

David recalled the unsolved killings of Aglipayan bishop Alberto Ramento and Fr. William Tadeo, said a number of other priests who, he said, had been harassed and threatened with death.

"We fear that the same attack on our church is yet to come with the government's antiterror law," he said.

He said the Aglipay Aglipayan and other Filipinos to remain vigilant and oppose terrorism in its many guises, "and much more it is manifest in the form of state repression."

But Enrile said the IRR was "no strict."

"We rendered all doubts redress of the security of the people," he said.

Enrile dismissed the statements of the lawyers of the petitioners, but added: "The giant under the leaders more."

He said his critics were more interested in getting their names in the media.

"People need not fear the law if they did not plan to commit any crime," he said.

On Monday, the Kilusang Mayo Uno, National Federation of Labor Unions-Kilusang Bayan, Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, Southeast Metropolitan Engagement Network and Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño questioned before the Supreme Court the state definition of terrorism, among other criminal concepts contained in the IRR.

They acknowledged that there were a few "good" in the law against terror, but warned that the IRR and its definition of terror would broaden the legitimate fight against it.

They asked the high court to annul the law and, while their petition was being studied, to issue a TRO on its implementation. With reports from Michael Lim Ellao and Cff C. Cobus-reger A.

Anakpawis member shot ...

From page A1

Tacloban City at around 11 a.m., according to Carl Alia of the militant peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Kalapyo was taken by relatives and neighbors to the St. Paul Hospital, where he died at around 12:15 p.m.

Alia said Kalapyo was active in organizing and doing community work for Anakpawis in Tacloban. He was vice president of the fish vendors' group Sangguman ng mga Gabii nga Magtutukdo (Kapatok), an affiliate of Anakpawis.

"Tanyag pa kaayo siya dinhi sa siday sa Baras sa Tacloban, isa siya ka officer sa Kapatok," Alia said in Waray-Waray. (He was very popular in the Baras area in Tacloban, he was an officer of Kapatok.)

Kalapyo was possibly the first victim of an extrajudicial killing since the Human Security Act (HSA), otherwise known as the antiterror law, was enacted into law on July 15.

He was the 86th member of Anakpawis killed since 2001, according to the human rights group.

Waiting for a ride

Chief Supt. Abner Cobrinzapatos, commander of the Eastern Visayas police, quoted investigators as saying that Kalapyo was waiting for a ride in front of a packing area when the motorcycle-borne assailants approached.

The two killer dismounted and fired two shots at Kalapyo and another three shots as he lay on the ground, Cobrinzapatos said.

Per another account, Kalapyo and his wife were standing outside their house waiting for a ride to the airport to buy fish when the shooting occurred.

Police investigators found five empty shells and two slugs from a 45-cal. pistol at the crime scene.

According to Teodoro Casiño of the partylist group Bayan Muna, Kalapyo was organizing barangay assemblies on the HSA and on urban militarization.

Casiño said Kalapyo was "tinrod" by soldiers two weeks ago and was accused of being a member of the communist New People's Army—which he vehemently denied.

He was purportedly told to stop his political activities.

"He was supposed to go into in a press conference [today] to narrate the incident," Casiño told the Inquirer.

Mocking high court

Alia quickly blamed the military for the attack, saying its "death squads" were "mocking" the Supreme Court decision.

"It is really a bizarre attack against militants, especially now that the assassin is ongoing," he said.

Fior Arlo, spokesperson of Bayan-Eastern Visayas, said the group doubted the initial police investigation that indicated a personal grudge was behind the attack on Kalapyo.

Arlo said his group had been told by Kalapyo's fellow fish vendors that a couple of days before the shooting, two soldiers warned Kalapyo against continuing his organizing activities.

He condemned the shooting of Kalapyo and called for a thorough and impartial investigation, saying many such killings had occurred in Eastern Visayas but remained unsolved.

"This is how [the government's] way to eliminate dissenters or critics," he said.

Arlo also told the Inquirer that Bayan was demanding the repeal of the HSA, the pullout of soldiers deployed in the northern part of Tacloban, and the cessation of more trials for poor fish vendors in the city market.

Durano hails BI policies on tattoos

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION'S (BI) renewed "No Touch, No Contact" and "Tattoo is an Art" policies on the treatment of tourists, particularly Japanese, have elicited appreciation from Tourism Secretary Joseph "Joy" Durano.

In a statement, Durano said the BI's adoption and implementation of the policies reflected its "responsiveness to immediate concerns."

Japan is expected to contribute the most arrivals from countries, or more than 2.8 percent, of the Philippines' five million target arrivals by 2010. It is also the Philippines' second biggest investor and trade partner, and the largest source of official development assistance.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan had earlier informed Durano in a letter of a memorandum order prohibiting BI officers from making physical contact with passengers or searching their hand-carried baggage unless required by special circumstances.

Searching hand-carried baggage is a domain of security officials and customs authorities, according to Libanan's order.

Technically, under the "Tattoo is an Art" policy, no passenger suspected of harboring a tattoo shall be made to show, display or exhibit the same unless coupled with [indecency] of any person likely to derogate[ry] information from established sources. Thus, a mere tattoo, unless morally offensive, indecent and vulgar, or politically and socially insidious, shall be treated with artistic value," Libanan said in his letter.

The first policies instituted from reports of harassment of Japanese tourists by immigration personnel at Philippine international airports, which prompted Durano to bring up the matter to Libanan.

The two men are former colleagues in Bureau of Immigration.

The new BI policies came on the heels of Durano's successful 3rd Philippine Tourism Mission (PTM) to Japan, where he led an industry delegation to the cities of Nagoya, Osaka and Tokyo, according to Director Benito C. Bengzon Jr., head of the Department of Tourism's Tokyo Office.

Through the PTM, members of the local tourism industry gain bilateral government assistance in finding Japanese buyers of tour packages, investors in new projects, and partners for joint ventures or asset acquisitions, and other business linkages.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 18, 2007
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12
Gospel: Matthew 11:25-27

At one occasion Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

"Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Commentary

Moses, a shepherd tending the sheep, sees a burning bush. The bush burns but is not consumed. As he draws closer to it, God calls out to him. God reveals himself to him, and chose to appoint him God tells him that he has heard the cry of the Israelites in their oppression and that it is Moses whom he is sending to lead them out. Moses could not be more surprised and what God will be with him and that they will worship on this mountain. God is the God of wonders and life, the God of the promises to Moses and the Israelites, the God of liberation, of unity and human dignity. Moses is not to act on his own initiative.

Jesus prays to his Father and reveals that only the Father, the creator, those without power on earth, like the children during his time, are the only ones who know God's ways. Only a Father knows our Father, and Jesus chooses to reveal him to us. All that we know of [unclear] Father is the greatest gift of the Word, the Son. Do we pray for this knowledge and wisdom?

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Summit to GMA: Stop slays

From page A1

cal," Marquez said. "All the suggestions made by the working groups will be related to the concerned government agencies or branch of government."

A working group chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez called on the summit to adopt a resolution urging Ms Arroyo to order a stop to the killings and the abductions.

"[We recommend] the issuance, through this summit, of a resolution requesting the Chief Executive to issue and order all those connected to stop the extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances," the resource group said in its report.

Four members of the 13-member group "dissented" with this recommendation, the report said. All four dissenters came from the ranks of the military and Philippine National Police, it said.

Command responsibility

The group also called on Congress to enact a law on command responsibility and that a study be made regarding the immunity of the government from suit in cases of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

It also urged the adoption of "the customary international law on command responsibility."

"A study should be made regarding immunity of the government from suit in cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances and determine if the government can be held liable for damages," it added.

To make cases of political killings and disappearances easier to prosecute, several groups proposed that the so-called "presumption of regularity" in the performance of duty of members of the military and police be suspended in cases of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Carpio group

Several working groups urged the resumption of peace talks with rebel groups to end the violence that has hit the ranks of leftists, mainly.

The ranks of leftists in recent years have been decimated by extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

The group of Associate Justice Antonio Carpio called for giving more teeth to the writ of habeas corpus by allowing inspections of private and public premises when the respondents deny holding in custody a person reported missing.

"It follows some proceedings, the petitioner may ask the court for an order allowing petitioners or search specific private and public premises under guidelines prescribed by the court to the presence of the Commission on Human Rights] and the police," the Carpio report said.

Quisumbing group

Groups also called for further study into the implementation of the so-called writ of amparo aimed at ensuring greater respect for civil liberties.

Members of a group headed by Senior Associate Justice Consuelo Quisumbing called for a three-year ceasefire with rebels.

The Quisumbing group called for a study on the creation of a law that would define extrajudicial killings and disappearances as crimes separate from murder and kidnapping.

It proposed to define extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances as "those that are (1) done outside the law; and (2) for political and/or ideological reasons."

"Thus these cases done pursuant to a state policy or not is irrelevant to our task of holding orbetors," it added.

Crime against media

The Quisumbing group proposed looking into a new crime where the victim "is a journalist, judge, (or) militant who is killed or kidnapped in the course of the performance of his duties or the conduct of his profession."

"This is not penalized in the Revised Penal Code. If we have a law protecting the women and children, the group is also in need of the protection of the law," the Quisumbing group said.

"This is not an intrusion by the judiciary into the domain of the legislature," it added. "Under our laws, the court can impose fines for the contempt of Congress."

Veteran groups also urged strengthening of the government's witness protection program through increased funding and making available the insurance coverage for witnesses and informants for them.

Twelve working groups submitted by the justices of the Supreme Court drew up various recommendations:

Nachura, Tinga groups

The group led by Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura proposed giving more prosecutorial powers to the CHR, noting that most complainants go to the commission than to the DOJ.

"The DOJ is perceived as an arm of the state. The CHR is perceived to be more trustworthy. Most of the complainants go to the CHR rather than the DOJ, but it's the DOJ that handles the prosecution," according to the group's representative, Alfredo Tinga.

The group led by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario suggested that the CHR's prosecution powers also be expanded so that an independent body would handle cases of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

The group chaired by Justice Diosdo Peralta recommended the creation of "special courts manned by specially trained judges and prosecutors" to hear and decide cases of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

The group led by Associate Justice Mariano Del Castillo proposed the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which provides for the prosecution of crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression.

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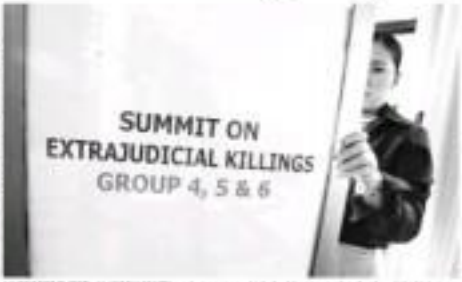

UNPRECEDENTED: 13 "BREAKOUT" sessions were each chaired by an associate justice of the high court.

THE BALL IS IN GMA'S COURT: The resolution at the end of the extrajudicial summit is for President Arroyo to issue an order to all those concerned to stop the killings and enforced disappearances.

Marine soldier accidentally fires gun at summit venue

By Tina G. Santos

TERROR TESTIMONY gripped the Manila Hotel, where an unprecedented summit on extrajudicial killings was being held, when a Marine soldier accidentally fired his gun.

Sgt. Melchor Librado, of the 004 Battalion Marines of the Philippine Marines, accidentally pulled the trigger of his .45 caliber gun as he was about to deposit it in the hotel's security desk.

The was about to enter the hotel as he walked the gun to unload the bullets, but it accidentally went off," said Benito Ingal, the hotel's security supervisor.

Papin said no one was hurt during the incident that happened around 1:50 p.m.

"We ranked it dismissed, having a box of sand where guns were usually unloaded," Papin said.

Negligence

Librado, who immediately surrendered his gun to his superior, was brought to the police for investigation.

A police official, who refused to be identified because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said that although Librado had not violated liability, he might face administrative charges for negligence.

Office of the Ombudsman as another forum where complementary could go and said, saying that "unlike the DOJ, it is a politically independent office, independent from politics, at least in theory."

Filipino solution

The group's representative, Salvador Carlos, said it was convinced that the Philippines could best put an end to extrajudicial killings and disappearances in the long run if it relied on its domestic capability instead of on international avenues.

"This is a Filipino problem requiring a Filipino solution," Carlos said.

Other delegates also supported studying the possibility of reinstituting the death penalty.

"Recommendations to the executive will be sent to Malacañang while those calling for legislative attention will be sent to Congress," Marquez said.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Auction Sale of The Bureau of Customs Port of Subic for Motor Vehicles and other items scheduled for July 18, 2007 has been moved and set on July 20, 2007 at 2 P.M. Conference Room office of the District Collector.

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Puno lost judge-brother to assassin

From page A1

true, he said, "but as real democracies, the objective is to reduce killings."

"But the fullness of freedoms can only be attained when there is no more human, no more fear," he said.

Initially on record asked Puno to call for the lifting on the ban on the chief of staff, Gen. Hilbo Marquez, Kasser, "GT" Bird floated the idea of "expanding the court's role" against the killings not in a conference with fellow justices, but in the interview with the Inquirer's Jong Ilang newspaper Philip Tellosa.

Puno attended the 11th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific in Hong Kong last week. The Hong Kong Centre judges for the Advancement of Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines met with Puno to thank him and the high court for its recent decisions upholding human rights.

For a longtime colleague, responding, the court's role against the killings was concerned with Puno's decisions.

"I'm not surprised. He's always been a 'no-nonsense' and direct Blues Jr., former Supreme Court spokesperson, who knew Puno since their school days at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

Collegian editor

As an editor of the UP's Philippine Collegian in the 1960s, the "liberal" thinking Puno had had "disagreements a number of times" with university authorities over what he got printed in the school paper, Blues fondly recalled.

"He's a deep thinker, reserved in many ways, yet acts fast; pro-

Widower, lay preacher

The Chief Justice, a member of the UP College of Law Class '61, returns to the office as early as 6 a.m., according to Marquez. Once, in a media interview, he recalled, Puno said he would start the day at 4 a.m., leafing through the Bible and listening to religious hymns.

A 67-year-old widower, Puno is also a lay preacher in the Methodist Church. His wife was a former clerk of court of the Supreme Court's First Division.

In his government spiel, Puno's integrity can be considered "beyond reproach," Blues said.

This can probably explain why, as senators began to converge in the May 14 midterm elections, "everybody's lining up to be seen in by him."

Bee line for oath-taking

Kingpins said among those who called Puno to administer Dee oath of office were Senators Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan, Francis "Chz" Escudero and Congressmen Edcel Lagman, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Batangas Governor Hermilando Mandanas, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, Cebu Mayor Michael Rama, Cebu Vice Governor Agnes Magpale, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Cebu Vice Governor Greg Sanchez, Cebu Rep. Simeon Kintanar, Cebu Mayor Mercedes

Jinggoy wants Senate to probe Jonas abduction

ALMOST

MP OPPOSITION senator has called for a Senate investigation into the abduction of activist Jonas Joseph Burgos.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has readied a Senate resolution calling for an inquiry in aid of legislation on not only was Burgos' case but also the growing number of cases of involuntary disappearances of activists under the Arroyo administration.

Burgos, 37, son of the late press freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr., was abducted by armed men inside the Sta. Cristina shopping mall in Quezon City last April 28.

The abduction harshly took Burgos to a waiting car whose plate numbers were later traced to another private party as being camp in Baler, Aurora. Burgos has since remained missing.

Estrada said he would ask the Senate committee on human rights and national defense to "dig deeper" into the alleged involvement of military personnel in Burgos' disappearance.

The Department of Justice recently tried to investigate the case.

But Senior State Prosecutor Ivin Rodriguez Feliciano was taken off the case by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez after Feliciano revealed the involvement of agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) in the abduction and summoned the body for probable cause.

Reports said seven suspects implicated Sgt. Jody Sigua, M/Sgt. Alexio Arquillano, S/Sgt. Jaime Sosa, Corporal Maria Joanna Pontanar and a certain TL, as well as Lt. Col. Noel Clemente and 1Lt. Jonie Monchera of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion based in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Estrada will file the resolution when the 14th Congress formally opens on July 23.

Under the new rules, the Senate would only start accepting proposed resolutions on July 23.

Estrada wants ranking military officials to be summoned during the Senate public hearings.

He also wants top administration officials led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita summoned to explain why Malacañang has not signed and endorsed to the Senate the United Nations International Convention on extrajudicial killings of journalists and political activists. The killings have been severely condemned by the international community, the Church and civil society groups. From Z. Matthagan

MARKET LINKAGE PROGRAM

"Kasaganaang dito Kayo"

Pakinabang Magsasaka ng Produkto	Produkto	Bultong Kailangan Kada Araw ng Mamimili (who)	Bayad
Commonwealth Market	Gulay - seasonal highland vegetables	5,000 kilos	Cpt. Roger Gulang Commitee Unit
Mabini ng Pasig	Karne - Pork Carcass (Hasa)	15-20 Heads 15-20 Heads 30-35 Heads	Hala & Nina Magnaye, Roderick "Boss Aga" Reynoso Ron Medrano
	Hayward (Chicken) Isda - Bangus - Tilapia Prutas - Indian Mango, Lanzones, Rambutan, Pambalitan	1,000-2,000 kilos 3,000 kilos 3,000 kilos 1,000 to 3,000 kilos seasonal harvesting	Edna de Jesus Flora & Mercy Flora & Mercy Estelita Fernandez
	Gulay (Highland) - Cabbage, Carrots, Potato, Baguio beans, Chayote, at iba pang seasonal	10-15 kilos	Estelita & Nina Adelfa Sonny Carretana Agustin Paulino
	Gulay (Lowland) - Amplaya, Kangkong, Pechay Tagalog - Okra, Squash, Ginger, etc. - Onion	4-5 kilos 3 kilos	Amor & Alan de Guzman Bienvenido Villegas
Muntinlupa City Public Market(Mini-Mall)	Gulay - Assorted Lowland and Highland Veggies - Kaong, Pork Carcass (Hasa) - Chicken (Hasa)	2,500 kilos 11,000 kilos per day 2,000 kilos per day	Ma. Eva Fronda Ma. Baby Flores Ma. Baby Diaz
	Gulay (Lowland)	2,500 kilos	Ma. Flora Fernandez
	Gulay (Highland)	400 kilos	Mr. Oliver Esperida

Para sa magdadala ng produkto:
sa mga palengke ito,
mayroong libreng lugar sa looban ang D.A.
sa inyong produkto.

Para sa mga tagilagang impormasyon na may kaugnay sa:
Market Administrator
(Commonwealth Market, Mr. Rolando Mina / Mrs. Lilia B. - Tel. (632) 426-6132)
(Mabini ng Pasig/ Mr. Celestino Ruiz - Tel. (632) 641-6644)
(Muntinlupa Public Market - Tel. (632) 543-0111)
Department of Agriculture - Tel. (632) 928-8732
Marketing Assistance Area (Gulay, Karne at Isda)
(Ang Lahat! - Dominic Ng, gerald_ng@yahoo.com)

INQUIRER

OPINION

Definition needed

IF THE HUMAN SECURITY ACT IS BEING HOTLY debated because its definition of terrorism remains overly broad and vague in the opinion of its many critics, a definition is required of what "command responsibility" actually is. The Supreme Court initiated second-or-extrajudicial killings presents an opportunity to arrive at a working definition, and the opportunity to do so shouldn't be missed.

EDITORIAL

So far, newspaper headlines have focused on Chief Justice Reynato Puno's hesitating elevated officials, and on the posturing by the military top brass and the political front men of the Left. Everyone is wringing his hands over extrajudicial killings, whether sincerely or not. But we believe that one of the major reasons things are still at the hand-wringing stage, and won't move beyond that, is that a consistent definition of command responsibility still doesn't exist.

In Nuremberg, the principle of command responsibility was enshrined for all time in international law, with the trial of the leadership of the Nazi state. We forget that in Asia, the same principles were upheld by the war crimes trials held in Manila, also held at the end of World War II. Command responsibility stems from, has been further developed as a legal concept in many jurisdictions, including our own. It is not only being continuously refined, but also, expanded.

The concept is most fully developed in military terms. Whether it was Allied victors insisting that Axis officers couldn't evade responsibility for war crimes by blaming it on orders from their superiors, or Western military and civilian courts insisting on the same standard for their own military (as American courts did in the wake of the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam War), no officer in our day and age should be able to evade accountability by passing the blame to superiors or subordinates.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has had to admit that command responsibility is a principle our military is duty-bound to accept, and thus uphold. The Arroyo administration's civilian spokespersons have said so, too. And lawyers can point to jurisprudence in this regard. The question, however, remains how it is to be enforced, and to what extent it binds officialdom, military or civilian. This determines the kind of accountability aggrieved or concerned parties can demand and expect.

The president of the Philippines, for example, is commander in chief of the armed forces. This additional title is not decorative, and the purpose of this constitutional delineation aren't cosmetic. As the constitutionally ordained commander in chief, civilian control over the military is underlined, but we need a working agreement as to the extent to which our presidents can be held accountable for military behavior.

A working definition will also put local, and not just national, civilian officials on notice. A summit seems a waste of time if it has no impact on officials who are proving increasingly impervious to national concerns or principles. Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has just together with "Task Headless Unit," which he has encouraged to use shotguns (though he denies the line at 30 bbs). Calls made by Bayanis spokesman Juan Mercado for Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña to be held accountable for the rash of liquidations has fallen on deaf ears. Government officials must be called to account for their acts—and it begins with their being clearly held responsible for extrajudicial murders in their jurisdictions.

A definition, too, is necessary when it comes to those who refuse to acknowledge the authority of our laws and courts. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has protested our that the New People's Army has committed human rights abuses, too. So, even as we ask the civilian and armed authorities to define and adhere to command responsibility, who will be the equivalent commissioner for the Left?

Command responsibility has to be more fully integrated into our justice and political systems. The process must begin with a definition that all parties can agree upon—one that can then be adopted in legislation that is in harmony with existing laws, and which bears in mind developments in international law. Only then will we see an end to officials, generals and rebels hiding behind due process to avoid command responsibility.

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Why prices are high in RP

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WHY ARE PRICES OF COMMODITIES in the Philippines so high, higher, in fact, than prices in our more affluent neighbors? The reason is the existence of monopolies, where one company controls the domestic market and dictates the prices of certain goods. Or, in other cases, where a number of corporations in the same industry connive with one another to control the market and fix prices among themselves.

Example: Prices of medicines in the Philippines are high because foreign pharmaceutical companies have banded together to form an oligopoly and fix prices in the domestic market.

Example: The price of cement is rising despite a glut because the cement companies are owned by the oligarchs who have enough control-political influence with lobby the government to impose high tariff on low-priced imported cement.

Example: Prices of petroleum products are high because the market is controlled by foreign oil companies through their agent or subsidiary in the Philippines which agree on the price of their products. Congress tried to break the monopoly by passing a law decentralizing the downstream oil industry and allowing more players to come in so that free market competition will have prevailed. But, in vain, other senators which controlled that downstream oil industries allowed an indefinite extension period to give new players time to be able to compete. Congress gave in to senate opposition. Instead, what the Arroyo-Puno Oil Price Council did was to impose a ceiling on the increase in prices every month.

So, what happened? While there are a number of new players, they are so puny in comparison to the big 3 that they cannot compete, hence, they do not affect the price. That is why every time the three all the oil companies raise their prices it seems at the same time and at the same rates.

Example: Our telecom rates are among the highest in Asia (next only to Japan's) because of monopolistic National Power Corp. (Napocor) let power generation, and Meralco let power distribution in eleven Manila and rural areas. Congress tried to break the monopolies by passing the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) which divided the power industry into three sectors: generation, transmission and distribution. It also provided for the privatization of Napocor and its power plants, and created the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM). WESM serves as a "pool" where all electricity-output from power plants are currently centralized. Power generators and buyers, on of bulk electricity compete for a share of this pool so to dispatched and scheduled to meet electricity demand in real time. WESM is designed to encourage competition in generation. With competition, efficiency is expected to be there and long run too, in the short term, efficiency will result from pressure on electricity businesses to reduce costs, align prices and tariffs with costs, and cut assets those still needed. In the long term, as new companies emerge in wholesale power generation, efficiency gains are likely to be more substantial.

But what happened? Power rates are still rising because there is no competition. The industry is still controlled by Napocor. Efforts to throw the monopolies in WESM when Napocor sold contracts and operators 70 percent to sell power of power plants? Because of its monopoly, Napocor can manipulate prices in WESM.

Example: Our cement industry is getting unconscionably rich as it refuses to sell its energy in the open market. With Napocor providing the largest chunk of the market, the four trading companies are easily manipulated by Napocor. It can easily increase its prices before the actual rates are in the WESM market because it is naive, fixed by the government. But any sensible person understands the situation in the Philippines. This is because all subsidies in the books of Napocor are considered losses. And all losses are one

(CONTINUED ON PAGE A 11)

Filipino people's liability.

The recent sudden spikes of energy prices prompted WESM to investigate signs of price manipulations. In the first working month, bidding resulted in an average price of P3.752 per kWh, in the second month it rose again, and now in the third month, it is P4.803 per kWh which is enormously high.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) also took notice of the price manipulations and issued a show cause order to Napocor, last week. ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano said it is Napocor that has the capacity to fix prices. He found the smoking gun in two letters sent by Napocor to PSALM which said that while WESM-related issues referred by Napocor (PSALM's new name) to the oversight of the PSALM's trading center in the spot market. The letters recommended that PSALM adopt certain strategies in submitting its bids.

It is highly inappropriate for Napocor to submit bids on its own to PSALM," said the ERC. "The participants in the market are expected to act individually and be circumspect in their dealings with each other to thwart any notion of collusion or any such agreement to undermine the trading rules."

"Napocor's proposed tips is face to taken as an invitation to collaborate on an ex-ante manner to create, and it is no secret that the dominant position of PSALM can enable it to capitalize on the generation divisions groups in the WESM. The influencing capacity of Napocor over PSALM and the bidding behavior of the trading teams, whether intended or not, cannot be determined."

If Napocor can manipulate WESM with, we should start with the main provision of Epira, which calls for the privatization of Napocor and its power plants. But Napocor is resisting privatization because it is benefiting from the price manipulations. And that is what is causing oil companies overseas to be energy averse. Why should anyone want to compete in an industry dominated by a subsidized government monopoly that can manipulate even the energy spot market?

She won't go

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER AGAIN SOMETHING JOSEPH Galloway told me. In 1975, when he heard Ferdinand Marcos say he was declaring martial law to quell the rule of anarchy that threatened to overwhelm the country, I hastily ran over to the Cable News building and called Galloway on the phone. Galloway, who was then the bureau chief of Knight-Ridder in Washington, had a second reason for declaring martial law: he was going to reform society. He was going to root out the "oligarchic system," the "feudal system" that, he declared, was the source of all our ills, and institute a democratic one. And since Galloway had been the political patronage like such figures lured cattle.

Galloway thought: Quelling anarchy and unrest, that could take anywhere from a few months to a few years. But declaring Philippine society, that could take forever. Marcos meant to stay forever.

I don't look over, but Chili is breaking those two notes thingy-ooohs.

At least during Marcos' time, the rebellions were real. They were not manufactured. The CPP/NPA was gaining adherents by the day and activities was spreading like wildfire to the countryside. The government of Ferdinand Marcos was running unsolid heights in the oil consciousness electoral decade in 1971, following the Plaza Miranda bombing, it wasn't just the activists who were protesting, it was also the civil rights lawyers, the academic community, churches and the various groups and sectors that would later...much, much later...constitute People Power. Marcos would refer to them as the Yellow Conspiracy.

There's Chili—if that feeling which makes the fuse of quelling the tide of anarchy and unrest to justify a martial law environment...that is what the electricity called human security Act is—infinitely more flabby. The Left is nowhere near what it was even before martial law, where it was still a fledgling and nascent force. It hasn't made a comeback—there—indeed no major cities of—margins given its capacity to strike the situation of the youth quite apart from the desperation of the hungry Manila is fed. Today that cause is largely spent, its sheer cry-mongering value having run the field of cynicism due to the field of time. Its capacity to draw the youth in particular like moth to flame by the power of its convictions is no longer there, not after the fall of the Wall. Its power to inspire has been largely spent. What hope it offer is that its recruits, conscripted from the hungry and desperate, barely do. Better to die like men than like dogs.

Neither is there the disaster and rancor that characterized the pre-martial law period of—indeed the one that brought the oligarchies down and brought a movie-tycoon to its place. Its response has been complaining, this country has become corrupt and anarchic as certain people—in reference to Mrs. Arroyo, whom they can't help it, demand off their wages and notes from by-their employees than do something about the lying, cheating and stealing of their rulers. A country that can't rise to protest the 16-point-plus shrinking of the nation's hope into—their hope is the birth of Miguel Zubiri? in relation it isn't a shame to criticize Zubiri shame only to itself.

So to the Alan Sayoad and the usual suspects, well, they are not exactly overwhelming, in attempting to organize. Most Filipinos are not in speak of the capital or business hating the oligarchs couldn't stand to see them in power. Filipino people's liability.

So what is "Quelling Anarchy and Unrest Part II" all about? Nothing more or less than to keep GMA in power.

That is all GMA—and time to all it is meant to do. The only welcome chorus it seems is the chorus to GMA's lingering political and physical, which is filling her and her cabal with adulation, turned. Bolting on a prompt to keep GMA in power. Because the only way for their own crimes against the people—no, against her enemy chief of them—the manacles of prosecution and political activities—isn't remitted. And in any case, who says their principal won't be enough for her to hold on to power, and according them adversary? It's an irony that cannot possibly be lost on GMA.

The NDA contends that terms—to them, not to the country. The country is ready to take the end means justify the baseless suspicions and the baseless response removes all obstacles to indefinite rule. Jose Peace Pavlo should know: he was there when Marcos enforced it.

So, yeah, it's time to quell anarchy. It's time to get with the stick. Marcos promised to end the reign of the political patronage. GMA promises to end the reign of the politics of patronage. That was the theme of her State s couple of years ago, the centerpiece became of national importance being "time of the state," the time. Islamic is on the perverse politics of this country Marcos promised to reform society, ending the reign of the oligarchy and returning power and prosperity to the country. GMA promises to end the reign of corruption and achieving economic recovery and prosperity. The last was the campaign theme of State time. The economy is improving, we need to stay the course, Pie Duterte is kind of dodo.

Quelling anarchy and returning society—we heard these before with disastrous consequences. We hear them again with equally disastrous consequences. Never has history's warning been more clear. Those who do not and history are destined to repeat it.

Mark my words. She won't go.

A clash of doctrines

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION SUSTAINING the power of the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in the cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in Central Luzon is a clash of doctrines between the executive and judicial branches of government.

The decision, which was penned by Associate Justice Reynato Puno, is a clear statement of the doctrine of separation of powers in the Constitution. It is a reaffirmation of the principle that the executive and judicial branches of government are coequal and coordinate branches of government.

The decision

Disrespect for media people

LETTERS

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT the Commission Service instructor Spencer has grounds to charge the officers of the National Press Club with qualified theft and violation of the anti-fencing law for selling the Marianudin mural, they are definitely guilty of destroying the baby standing and wagon that the journalism profession had held in our country and in the world.

The painting by National Artist Vicente Manansala, which was sold for P50 million to an art gallery, was a national heritage. It was donated to the press club by Eugenio Lopez, publisher of the Manila Chronicle, who commissioned the artist to paint the mural on one of the walls of the NPC building's iconic classy restaurant. A true artist, Manansala depicted the Filipino journalist in the symbolic context of the national condition.

Beyond its modernistic fashion, the mural showed an unschooled reporter pounding his typewriter while other, clear-cheering politicians or businessmen clasps the writer's arms. The fat man's other hand holds a furled of pesos. A figure, half-man and half-woman, apparently distributing relief goods with ratings attached to her/his fingers, hovers over the fray.

Below the hovering figure are tagged children, women and men with upturned faces and hollow eyes. In the background are a few multistory buildings and monuments, surrounded by a vast sea of squatters' hovels and dirty streets populated overhead. A spire in the form of a woman—the spire of truth and compassion—floats away from the morbid scene. The painting reminds us of Pessoa's "Guernica."

Journalists appreciated the painting for its artistic value and for its exposition of the truth and of the journalists' aspirations to change society for the better. If the present NPC officers had any respect for art and the noble aims of the profession of journalists, they would not have sold the painting. They would have perceived it as destroyed it in the material structure, instead of selling it, perhaps, to be chopped up for sale to private buyers. They don't need the money as the NPC has a newly income from office rentals, fund-raising activities and membership dues which they had doubled in an illegal convention.

Also, they have illegally amended the club's by-laws making non-journalists from "allied professions" regular members with the right to vote, thus enhancing the club from legitimate journalists. No wonder members from the mainstream publications and broadcast industry have abandoned the club.

—RANDOLF S. GEMORAN,
NPC lifetime member,
rsdiamond@yahoo.com

'Trapo' rearing ugly head on young senators

AMONG THE NEW SENATORS ARE finds there who after bright prospects for a new round of politics, which my No. 1 essential candidate, Dr. Harris Bacunawa, aptly calls the politics of duty. Those new faces include Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Antonio Trillanes IV. But, alas, the 13th Senator has yet to surface and already we are witnessing another ugly spectacle of traditional politics.

I refer in particular to the shameful decision of Escudero and Cayetano to back the candidacy of Manuel Villar for Senate president. Positioning themselves as "genuine" oppositionists during the campaign, Escudero and Cayetano are in such a rush to ride their political career.

My guess is that Villar contributed heavily to their campaign kitty and the two neophytes are simply paying back. But how about us, the electorate who fought into the premise of new politics?

On second thought, all is not lost. We still have Senator Trillanes, and hopefully Sr. Santiago.—(9/8/07).

—CARDY RODRIGUEZ,
marquesdegabrielz@yahoo.com

'Abaya' in Saudi; 'Burqa' in Afghanistan

I WAS VERY MUCH BRIBED BY Michael L. Tan's column titled "Crossing borders," (9/12/07). However, women in Saudi Arabia don't wear the tar, they wear the abaya.

The burqa is worn by women in Afghanistan, and I believe this is due to the teachings of the Taliban. The version of khaki practiced in South Arabia prescribes a different dress code.

—JOYCE DE LEON,
dr_love@rocks.fr

Former SC chief right on Trillanes, Panlilio

I CANNOT HELP BUT AGREE WITH FORmer Supreme Court Chief Justice Antonio T. Carpio that when he wrote in his July 3 column titled "The law decrees produced some joking results, the man standing by the victory of Antonio Trillanes IV on the senatorial level and of (Ed) Panlilio on the local level."

Likewise, I am one with Chief Justice Carpio when he noted that "People crowned in the ways of politics such (Trillanes and Panlilio) defied the organizational odds of "first, money and machine" and can on plain guts."

Indeed, the former chief justice hit the nail on the head where he pointed out that both Trillanes and Panlilio "symbolized the reuniting of our people for greatness in form and their disgust for lying, cheating, and stealing."

—CRISTOBERTO S. VILAR,
vilar@pldt.net,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

Pope hailed for reviving Church tradition

I READ WITH INTEREST THE NEWS story regarding Pope Benedict XVI's recent Apostolic Letter titled "Summorum Pontificum," which liberalizes the use of the Roman Missal of 1962 or the Tridentine Rite or Old Latin Mass. (9/9/07, 7/7/07).

Born in the late '50s, my generation never experienced the Old Latin Mass. I myself only know of the changes introduced by the Church during and after the so-called Ecumenical Council of the '70s.

I distinctively remember my first Mass years ago in a church in Quezon City and it left a deep impression in my heart. Of course, I have read in books how pre-Vatican II Catholics worshipped. I'd like now the kind of Mass that my pious grandparents attended, how impoverished we are now for having been deprived for so long of this rich and profoundly Catholic ritual.

Once, I thought, was not enough. From then on, I developed a love for the Old Latin Mass.

My Catholics should thank our Pope for the "Summorum Pontificum." In that letter, he emphasized that the Tridentine Mass was not abolished unlawfully and, therefore, technically it was never forbidden.

—BENEDICT B. ALMARIO, M.D.,
NDC lifetime member,
bbalmario@yahoo.com

Grateful for Calipjo Go's new exposé

ARTICLES CALIPJO SAYS FULL-PAGE AD (Inquirer, 07/05/07) should serve as an eye-opener for everyone, in particular, the men and women in the Department of Education.

Instead of filing libel and harassment cases against Go, the DepEd, the International Baccalaureate Council Secretariat and the writers and publishers should commend the man and congratulate him for his genuine concern for the country's public school system. Only school officials who are fearful and and continue to run the erroneous books referred to in the ad.

The DepEd cannot be so blind as not to fully acknowledge the gravity and seriousness of the errors in the data contained in textbooks; a rating of "40% to 60% for CORRECTNESS" after the modernization is bad commissioned to review the books found unscrupulous, factual and language errors in them, as pointed out by Go.

One only has to read and re-read Calipjo's full-page ad to see and agree with what the man has discovered to be errors that need to be corrected, but our students (like myself) as fooled as "lapsed Catholic" if known before.

Go has done responsibly my youngest daughter who is in third year high, I remain grateful to Go for the invaluable information. (s)he has provided me through his ad.

At any who has had the opposite must to work with the IBCSS Network Global Secretariat (now IBCF) and the dark Mr. Marc Pluvinis Publishing Senior Inc., I accept God will for the formation of "a better and more peaceful world" (which is the mission of these books).

Count me in, Mr. Calipjo Go, and, like you, "I will not collect a single cent."

—EUSEBIO C. ESCUDERO,
jesuitsaidcorp@yahoo.com

No 'masseurs' in LandBank

THE FRIENDS TO MALCOLM'S editorial titled "Performance measuring at LBP, BOP" (Inquirer, 7/13/07) has moved me to make the following clarifications.

First, LandBank sets its financial targets for the coming year(s) on the last quarter of every year on pace with national planning, wherein it takes into account key factors, such as macroeconomic indicators, trends and forecasts from the banking and other related industries, as well as the bank's historical financial performance. These annual targets are presented to LandBank's board of directors for approval.

A bar metric bests LandBank's planning is subject to monitoring targets for revenues, expenditures and net income/loss at least once during the year.

On the average, it has targeted an increase in its net income level this year by at least 20 percent over that of the previous year's. Instances of actual figures or revenues and expenses versus its targets may occur during the year due to various factors, such as movements in interest and exchange rates as well as sale of big assets.

LandBank's greatest and most important asset is its people and it is the net income targets as well as one of the most important measures of our performances.

From 2000 to 2005, LandBank has consistently met and even exceeded its net income targets. This was a result of its prudent and judicious use of resources, effective cost management and aggressive marketing efforts, coupled with continuous improvement.

Second, the sizable increase in LandBank's total expenses for 2006 as reported in COA's annual was triggered by the substantial provision it imposed on landholdings which, in turn, led to the rise in the interest expense on deposits. The shift on the tax imposed on banks from gross added to gross receipts tax was also a contributing factor.

—AGUSTIN FERNANDEZ S. SPILADE,
assistant vice president,
Corporate Affairs Department,
Land Bank of the Philippines

Mute on int'l reaction to killings

THE DEPARTING DEANER OF the Department of Foreign Affairs and of the concerned foreign service posts on the demonstrations made by international human rights groups regarding the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines is tragic. Their statements are supposed to explain and defend Philippine policies and positions; instead they have chosen to remain mute and deaf.

The Philippine Embassy in the US and the Philippine Consulate General in New York should be more aggressive and forthright in addressing the concerns of those international human rights groups. At the same time, the heads of posts should develop personal contacts and relations with key members of the non-governmental organizations.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo should send out specific talking points of the international groups invited to help the country address those concerns, instead of just replying with formulaic, ho-hum statements. Take, for example, Ambassador Lauro G. Baja's recent speech, Philippine "transition" in the Asean report, which lends credence to the belief that he may not even have read the report. As the country's foreign secretary, Romulo should be more in interest and exchange rates as well as sale of big assets.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Inside the Cordillera death ritual

RELATIVES of Florencio "Lakay Sambad" Pendaoen keep vigil in his wake. A respected elder in Bagada, Pendaoen was propped up on a sangadil (death chair) and garbed in indigenous garments befitting his status in the community.

By Roland Habang
Correspondent

SEVEN ELDERLY WOMEN in Sagada, Mt. Province, gather one night around a hut no larger than five square meters. Linked arms to shoulder, the women chant as they sway to its "sleng-seng" rhythm: "Tradi'ye-nan inorri itadtatawi, ya-nin dre-eli ya."

It is the night's merry song in Kankanaey: "May you bring luck back to us and to your descendants."

Inside the hut, all eyes focus on a figure occupying a specially reposition.

Florencio "Sambad" Pendaoen, an elder of dap-ap Tokipa in the village of Bagnang, has been dead three days. On the third day of his death, he was dressed in his finest garments before being placed in a sangadil (sitting) and was propped up on what locals call a sangadil (death chair).

On the night of the third day, the seven merry-singing ladies of the elder figure heads of Bagnang and Ang-ong villages chanted the dirge as if addressing the dead.

The hope is enrolled the writers of the dead and sought his blessings for the community and for those who shared or assisted and efforts to usher the passing of the dead back to the world of their departed ancestors.

"Sambad was an industrious man," the elders chanted. "For even in his old age he would take up hard chores including digging/hoeing firewood."

Unfortunately, Sambad's industry triggered his decline. His village mates said he climbed a tree to cut some branches for firewood. He missed a step, fell and broke his back. He survived the fall but the man, at 75, was unable to walk again until died months later.

But in his prime as an elder of dap-ap Tokipa, Sambad knew what he wanted, and declined that in to unconventional to his family and the dap-ap council leadership. When he died, he wanted to be propped up on a sangadil and buried in the ways of his father, the respected Lakay Bacdanes, and his ancestors—his coffin hanging on a ledge at the limestone cliffs of Bacong.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

As one knows for sure how or when the practice of placing the dead on a sangadil started.

Even Lambert "Pollet" Bocaing, acknowledged repository of oral tradition in the community, can only quote sentences from folktales.

He said in the olden days, the dead was merely left lying on the ground, by nightfall, when all were asleep, the dogs often sneak in to eat the corpse. Or, without knowing it, the dead might turn into a carabao or some other animal or people might kill ill, says the supernatural (nonhuman) if they butcher and eat it.

Sometimes the antis (ancestors) talked to kith the dead may think that (the person was merely asleep owing that it was only lying about, so they leave, prefer to complete their task. This has prompted elders to decide on placing the dead on a chair to prevent these mishaps from happening.

The less dramatic but pragmatic version, according to Bocaing, has something to do with preservation. The dead can look better in traditional regalia if seated, rather than lying in a coffin.

Even if the province's system has ceased to function, the person is not "dead" until declared so by the community.

In the case of Sambad, it was three days after he breathed his last. Only when he was secured on a chair that the dirges and chants for the dead began.

Sambad was strapped on an ordinary wooden chair, his thumbs and big toes bound together by a rope made of bittos and his jaw tied shut with a bakkakan or a soft back used to secure a carrying baby. Islamic custom introduced three model practices to the dead.

The design of his death garments indicates he was among the privileged in the community.

"Much cloth with seven stripes implies that he is among the Anadangan," says Bocaing. The less privileged wear blue with seven stripes.

However, with the required number of pigs to be butchered (21 and 11), it is difficult to distinguish the Anadangan from those who are not.

"The ritual takes place only when a person asks for it and if the family can afford the cost," says Bay Fior-od, an official in Barig, Bit. Province.

However, even if the family is financially capable, the ritual cannot be performed if it does not own a stable or a ritual basket.

"To own a stable means you are part of the ritual and could eat baleys," says photographer Tommy Haballa. "But to save one slightly means you have earned your back from the old ways and embraced another set of beliefs."

Beliefs

This other set of beliefs might be the Christian faith and the reason Sambad's daughters has expressed her reluctance to place her father on a death chair.

She was only persuaded upon by the rest of the clan who said it was her father's wish that this ritual be performed.

Today the death ritual is at best a "compromise" between Christianity that was introduced by western missionaries and local traditions and beliefs.

Thus, during Sambad's wake, the dirges were performed as much as Christian hymns were sung.

In Sagada, there is a cemetery on a hill where Christian burials are performed, but overlooking the hill, a rock face is full with hanging coffins from traditional burials.

It seems, however, that Sambad's story ran to the end. Wrapped in his burial shroud in final position, the village's men, and sometimes women, carried him on their backs to the final destination in a practice called bisadsan.

The procession is taken seven in carrying the body towards the limestone cliffs across the as it wandered good luck.

Grassmiles as it may sound, the luck happens when body thinks of the dead are smeared on to the one who is carrying the corpse, except that it "will only occur if the thinks are not smeared off for three days.

Bearing says the belief is so strong that those who participate fight for the chance to carry the corpse.

Are these practices still relevant in this age? Without hesitation, Fior-od says "yes."

"The bottom line in the observance of these practices is unity and discipline. These values do not fade to time," he says.

"So is the observance of limits (dapang). The culture of sharing will ensure that the people and their practices will endure for generations to come," says Haballa.

'Hospitel' gives hope to heart patients

By Arandrew Roque
Cabanatuan City

FROM THE LOOKS OF ITS lobby, the five-story building on the campus of the Wesleyan University-Philippines in Cabanatuan City could be mistaken for a hotel.

Actually, it is a specialty hospital—the first facility in Northern Luzon to serve heart patients.

Doctors manning the Wesleyan University-Philippines Cardiovascular and Thoracic Center (WUPCHEC) want to treat the facility as a "hospitel," or a hospital with a hotel ambience and service, to lessen the stress suffered by their patients.

More than this, though, the "hospitel" seeks to provide hope to heart patients, including those who cannot afford the cost of surgery in the provinces.

"This hospital is mostly for handling cardiovascular cases. We have the same skills, equipment and facilities as (those presented) at the Philippine Heart Center (PHC). It is like being attended to by the PHC in a different location," said Dr. Serena Jose Abad, WUPCHEC medical director.

The WUPCHEC has made special arrangements with the PHC for the latter's top heart doctors, surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses to be made available to the hospital on certain days. Abad said: "complementing them are doctors and specialists practicing in Nueva Ecija.

Abad is also the chief of critical care medicine division of the PHC, the country's top facility servicing heart patients. The WUPCHEC chief of surgery, Dr. Florante Cordova, is also the chief of surgeons at the PHC.

First patient

Marcelino the "Heart Center of the South," the WUPCHEC charges lower fees than those from the PHC and other hospitals in Metro Manila, according to Abad.

"There is also what we call 'C.I.C.' in the practice of medicine, which means 'charge to decency.'" Abad said, referring to cases when patients could not afford to settle all their fees.

"We expect patients to help us, to and help them find a way to cope with the expenses for correcting their heart problem," he said.

As if to test the hospital's mettle, the first patient who sought treatment was a tricycle driver, Leopoldo Farina, 58.

Suffering from rheumatic heart disease since he was 18, PHC doctors told Farina that his heart condition had worsened and that he should to be operated on immediately.

His hope, however, was dashed when told that more than 800 patients were waiting for a free operation and that he would need at least P600,000 for the procedure and medication (antibiotics).

Unemployed on his late, he returned home to Nueva Ecija. "I left everything to the will of God," Farina said, adding that he had prepared himself to die.

But then he learned about the "Heart Center of the South."

WUPCHEC doctors told his family that the operation would cost him P371,000. Farina said, "We asked for a discount. They reduced the quoted price by more than P100,000," he said.

Farina said his parents sold the family's small parcel of agricultural land to pay part of the expense. He still owns the hospital a big amount and he has promised to pay the balance.

"What happened to me is like a miracle. Here I am now ... alive and healthy," he said.

Abad said one of Farina's valves was replaced with a metallic prosthesis valve during the open-heart surgery conducted by Castellvi and his team on May 31.

Three patients from Pampanga, Cagayan and Nueva Ecija underwent operations at the WUPCHEC last month. One had an aortic valve replacement, the other a double bypass graft, and the third, a pericardiocyte (pericardial) operation.

Abad said two children, aged 5 and 9, who both had congenital heart disease, would undergo surgery soon.

Base hospital

Lawyer Guillermo Magbiza, WUPCHEC president, said putting up a hospital owned and operated by the university prompted a repeated plan of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to oblige schools offering nursing courses to have their "base hospitals."

"Instead of setting up a general hospital, we decided to put up a hospital that will specialize in the treatment of the top killer in the world, which is heart disease," Magbiza said.

The building, equipment and facilities, including a sovereign treatment plant, and other features were put up at a cost of P300 million from the savings of the 61-year-old institution.

In the pipeline is the construction of another building to complete a 200-bed capacity hospital with eye and cancer centers and other areas of specialization, Magbiza said.

The WUPCHEC is the only hospital in Luzon, outside of Metro Manila, which specializes in treating heart diseases. Aside from the PHC, six other hospitals in Metro Manila handle heart patients, while the Visayas has three hospitals and Mindanao, one.

"We have the latest models of the diagnostic appurtenances and facilities that can help us reach the final decision whether a heart patient will be operated on or not," Abad said.

These are the 12-lead, angiogram and the cardiac catheterization laboratory. These are in addition to the other laboratory and equipment for diagnostic examination and therapeutic treatment, he said.

Abad said the WUPCHEC team are up through the learning cost in the operations of the PHC. It can be considered a product of the experiences the doctors acquired at the PHC in the last 20 years, he said.

He said he would seek the help of university officials of the WUPCHEC and its concerned citizens of Concord and Northern Luzon to put up a foundation that would help subsidize the treatment of poor patients.

An existing heart foundation named in Aliwa Manila can provide assistance of up to P50,000 per poor patient, he said.

He said he would also push the establishment of a half-way house for relatives of patients.

"We are a climatic people who show sympathy and love to a sick relative by staying near him or her. But they could not be accommodated inside the room of the patient," he said.

Across the NATION

Bossi dropped as military priority

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A top Western Mindanao military commander said the search for Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi has taken a back seat to the hunt for gunmen who killed 14 Marines in an ambush in Basilan.

"Bossi is no longer our priority," said Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mangrong, commander of the Third Force in Western Mindanao.

Mangrong said their immediate task now is to "run after the people that massacred the Marines" on July 10.

"We just shifted our priority now but if there's opportunity we will continue the search for Bossi because there was no order for us to stop the search for the kidnapped priest," he said.

Mangrong also confirmed that more soldiers have arrived in Basilan to run after the perpetrators of the ambush, where 14 Marines were killed. Six of the soldiers had been beheaded.

The MILF rebels turned up to the ambush, denied by troops were behind the beheadings.

It has been more than a month already since Bossi disappeared but authorities admitted they still have no clear idea where the rector is.

But Col. Antonio Magdisi, chief of Task Force Bossi, said they were still trying to find out where Bossi, 57, was being held.

"The Task Force Bossi is still operational and we are now focusing on heavy intelligence work, gathering more information to ease information is positive, we immediately dispatch troops," Magdisi said.

He said search and rescue operations were being conducted in the areas of Zamboanga-Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur and some parts of Zamboanga del Norte.

Magdisi said other areas being searched include those in Basilan.

Maj. Eugene Batiawa, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, Westmincom chief, ordered the search to be conducted even in Sulu.

"Because we have some reports of sightings that Bossi is transferred in the area of Sulu," he said.

The Italian priest was abducted while on his way to celebrate Mass in Datu Piang, Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10.

Authorities tagged the group of Abdulkin Abubakarin behind the abduction. Abubakarin is an alleged Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commander with links to the Abu Sayyaf.

Mantawe were advised by one of their commanders to keep their cool and keep in mind the government's ceasefire agreement with the MILF.

"We are not savages," Brig. Gen. Ernesto Ables, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, said during the massacre ceremonies for the new commander of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 1, Lt. Col. Jose Cabaldon, in Malaso town.

He said that he always believed that the ceasefire agreement should be respected, despite the July 10 ambush.

"Our government concern ... is the utmost observance of the ceasefire agreement and to always observe the safety of the civilians," Ables said.

Datul Ali, MILF representative to the local ceasefire monitoring team, confirmed guerrilla were preparing for a major MNF offensive. Julie C. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

THE BODY of Cpl. Fredzie Palma, one of 14 Marines killed in an MILF ambush in Basilan, lies in his barracuda in Parañaque. Bello.

Abu Sayyaf ambush kills 2 more Marines

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MILITARY'S intensive campaign in Mindanao suffered another setback when two Marines were killed in an ambush by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu, the military said yesterday.

Maj. Eugene Batiawa, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command here, said soldiers from the Marine Battalion Landing Team 5 (MBLT) were in Barangay Tagpo in Patikul town around 8 a.m. yesterday when fired upon by about beyond bandits.

Batiawa said one soldier was also wounded and was thrown out but.

Lt. Col. Hector Hetrera, commander of the MBLT, said his troops were to provide road security for other forces going down from their jungle base in Patikul to the town proper when they were met with heavy firepower.

Hetrera said the bandits, numbering about 20, was led by Basirun Asnik, just of their Abu Sayyaf bandit Abubakar Asnik.

Hetrera said it was not clear whether or not the bandits suffered any casualties.

"We did not check because our concern was our casualties," he said.

The military has deployed a large number of troops to Sulu in a bid to capture Indonesian bombers Dulmatin and Umar Patek.

The foreign terror suspects were allegedly being hidden by the Abu Sayyaf, a raging band of self-proclaimed militants involved in kidnappings and killings.

Prospects of peace in Mindanao hangs in the balance as Malacañang yesterday said it won't stand in the way if the Armed Forces of the Philippines launched an all-out war against Moro guerrillas.

"Naturally, it's the assessment of the military chief, we will not interfere. We leave it to the discretion of General (Hermogenes) Esperon," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, when sought for comments.

The Armed Forces Chief of Staff insisted that an "all-out war is one of the alternatives, but it could be the last resort."

"We reach as possible we want to conduct operations that are intelligence-driven ... We do not want to be indiscriminate about this because (the area) is densely populated," Esperon told reporters.

"They have admitted that the ambush was perpetrated by them so they must now bring out the offenders. I mean, those who beheaded our Marines," Esperon told reporters as he visited the wake for the taken troops.

"Otherwise, all options are open," Esperon said, alluding to a massive crackdown on MILF forces on Basilan island. Jaime Aliparia, Inquirer Mindanao and Abraham Lim Elbo in Manila

重庆经贸、教育、旅游推介会

时间：2007年7月19日 上午10時

地点：马尼拉饭店底楼多功能厅

Promotion of Chongqing Economy,Trade, Education and Tourism

Date : July 19th, 2007, 10 am.

Place:Fiesta Pavilion, Maynila Hotel, Manila

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时间：2007年7月18日-20日

地点：SM集团亚洲购物中心前大厅

China Chongqing Photo Exhibition

Date: July 18th-20th , 2007

Place:Main Atrium, SM Mall of Asia

重庆市文艺演出

时间：2007年7月19日16:00pm

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Art Performance

Date and Time: 16:00pm, July 19th, 2007

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July18～21，2007

Cebu victims of Franceswiss come out, seek help of NBI

By Jhurven Nagalisan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—SOME CEBU-BASED investors of the Franceswiss, an alleged online pyramiding scheme, have sought the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) regional office here in filing cases against those who defrauded them.

The last batch of complainants gathered at the agency to conduct an investigation and, if possible, recover the money that they invested, NBI Central Visayas director Nicolasito de Lemos said.

De Lemos said the complainants invested millions of dollars and in pesos, ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 and as much as P50,000.

"The complainants were businessmen and retirees who invested their money with the assurance that they get four percent daily interest," De Lemos said.

The complainants explained that they were tempted to invest because of the huge interest they were supposed to get, which could not be found in other investment companies, he added.

De Lemos said the complainants received returns on their investments once or twice, but the returns stopped coming and the Franceswiss' websites could not be accessed anymore.

The complainants told the NBI that the people behind the fraudulent scheme made a presentation last May or June in a well-known hotel in Cebu City.

De Lemos, however, refused to divulge the name of the hotels and the people involved in the scheme pending the completion of the investigation.

He said the NBI was coordinating with the local management to check the names of the people who made the presentation, who had been identified by the complainants.

De Lemos said the NBI Cebu would coordinate with its Manila office to find out if those who defrauded the people in Cebu were the same ones who victimized many people in Manila.

Initially, De Lemos said the NBI Cebu might file charges of large-scale estafa or economic sabotage against the suspects in a Cebu court.

Baguio Muslims study terror law effects

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez talks on his mobile phone during the summit on anti-republican things organized by the Supreme Court.

SAUDO CITY—MUSLIMS BASED here have been organizing themselves into small discussion groups to explain the impact of the Human Security Act of 2007 (Republic Act 9372) on their community.

Although Muslims are natural targets of "racial profiling" under a prevailing war on terrorism, Bishop Abdullah, an Islamic scholar, said they have been arrested by the country's antiterror law because it gives some people opportunity to make money.

Abdullah said the law obliges law enforcers to arrest people who by accused of terrorism "P500,000 for each day they are detained, and pieces of their properties confiscated.

He said critics of the law oppose it because it violates 41, which outline the provisions. He said the section is vulnerable to abuse.

The section grants law enforcers on the disposition of suspected terrorist's assets, which government's seizure of Erastus up on the suspect's arrest.

"Upon [the suspect's] acquittal or the dismissal of the charges against him or her, the amount of P500,000 a day for the period in which properties, assets or funds were seized shall be paid to him on the concept of liquidated damages," the law says.

"The amount shall be taken from the appropriations of the police or law enforcement agency that caused the filing of the complaint that got against [the suspect]."

Since the promises governed by the 2001 attacks on the United States, Muslims have stopped wearing about expensive laws, Abdullah said.

"I think Muslims, in general, are not alarmed about [the antiterror law]. It has been the same situation since 2001. With or without the HSA, our laws are the same," he said.

Maybe [Muslims] assumed [people would find the law an opportunity to earn more money, but radicals will simply adapt to it and will value the aim. That provision will open the way to more abuses," he said.

Abdullah had been meeting experts to explain the law for his community.

Some of the Baguio traders said they avoid more clarity about the law "so we are not here" foreign Muslim students studying in Baguio."

Bureau of Immigration officers said about 30 African students of Islamic faith are studying in Baguio universities.

He said the students are expected to brush up on their lessons after them, "so the schools must help inform them about the law's impact."

A public elementary school teacher last week wore a hat prohibited by the guidelines.

The teacher said she needs to explain the antiterror law to her students, many of whom are Muslims. Hassan Cabasan and Bruno Cabasa, Inquirer Northern Luzon

PHILIPPINE youths from different organizations took over Malcolm Square in Baguio City on Saturday, where they spent all night writing their messages on the pavement against the Human Security Act.

Cops charge 2 in extortion-bombing of buses

SORSOGON, CITY—POLICE filed charges against two suspects in the bombing of a bus here, saying the two men belonged to a group that had bombed other buses earlier to extort money from the bus line owners.

Charged were Mohammad Jikmiel Canete, 28, of M'lang, North Cotabato and Sinsuelle Mangelen Ganzberg, 33, of 16 Poculan, Maguindanao.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Central Mindanao police chief, said the two were behind the July 13 bomb attack on a Wil-low Bus Liner unit that damaged the bus. No one was hurt in the attack.

Serapio said witnesses identified the two as among four men who left a bomb in the Willow Bus Liner unit. The two other men are at large and believed hiding in the Lipa-Batangas area.

Serapio said the first belonged to the group that was also behind previous bomb attacks that included those in Bataan, Davao del Sur and Masbate, North Cotabato on the Mindanao Bus Lines.

Eight people were killed in those attacks blamed on a group that police called the Alkabat Gang.

"This have one common objective—to extort money from these two bus companies," Serapio said.

In Digos City, police said they have filed charges against the two men responsible for Saturday's bomb scare in a bus that resulted in injuries to at least five people.

Senior Supt. Samuel Hamoy, bureau del Sur police chief, said Roberto Tegolan, 30, and his brother Jimboy, 26, both of Matanao, Davao del Sur province, with violating the Bilateral on Presidential Decree 1727, which penalizes individuals causing public alarm.

The brothers were among passengers of a Metro Shuttle bus bound for Davao City from Surallah, South Cotabato on Saturday afternoon.

The brothers were in a bus when they announced seeing a suspicious bag and smelling something burning at the back of the bus.

The next some passengers jumping out through the bus windows to the bus tunnel. Most of those who jumped off were injured. Charlie Lobaco and Orlando Bitoy, Inquirer Mindanao

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Another power tower bombed

EDAMPAY CITY—Unidentified men whom authorities said probably belonged to an extortion ring bombed a metallic transmission tower of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) in a remote village here early yesterday.

The attack came at 1a.m. in the Transco office in Northern Mindanao announced a backcompleted repairs on eight steel towers toppled by bombs from Manilva-Jose by unidentified men in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Jordan Lanao, Transco 3 cluster manager in Iligan City said the towers cost P6.3 million.

Intano Kapi, Medwin Dalag North Cotabato police chief, said an explosive device was planted on the foot of a Transco steel tower in Barangay Bangan-lawan.

The tower is part of the grid that supplies electricity from the Mt. Apo geothermal plant here to other parts of Mindanao.

Dalag said the explosion went off at about 2:30a.m. and damaged the tower's poles.

The attack brought outages to some parts of Central Mindanao.

A Transco official, who subject to "investigation for fear of retaliation from the yet unidentified attackers, said the government may lose the base to restore a power facility, almost for months and Aloha Lind, Inquirer Mindanao

7 towns to receive share in quarry funds

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—In what was surely done in just provincial administration, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio will give on Friday half of the P11.6 million collected from quarry operators in July 2, 11 to seven landrich towns and villages in the province.

Panlilio said he advanced the schedule of distribution of quarry revenues to July 20, more than a week before the amount was already considerable at the time.

Provincial administrator Victor Dabut said they have yet to determine how much the provincial government, the towns of Bacolor, Lubao, Sta. Rita, Porac, Floridablanca, Mabalacat and Minalin, and their respective villages would get from the P6.8 million revenues that would be released.

The amount was computed at half of the P800 tax imposed on every truckload of sand.

A Local Government Code provision said an ordinance from the provincial board on the sharing of quarry revenues six is 30-20-40 percent basis for the province, town and barangays.

Dabu said the remaining P5.8 million would be retained by the provincial capitol to cover administrative costs.

Some lawyer have claimed to use the P800, not P200, as base amount for the sharing.

The mayors have yet to formalize their position on the matter, however, Dabut said in a statement.

In a separate interview, Panlilio said he would follow the present sharing scheme until the provincial board approve to the proposed ordinance.

He said the provincial government would also share funds from administrative share to support social services in 13 town's where there is no quarry industry.

"Quarry operations have been going On government is a lot of resources," Panlilio said.

In collecting P11.6 million in 10 days, the Panlilio administration is likely to surpass the P20.4 million collected by the administration of former Gov. Mark Lapid in 2006, an increase revenue of quarry access showed.

Lapid and his father, Jun, blamed "Gov" Lapid, are in the United States and could not be reached for comment on why quarry revenues in their time as governors reached only P30 to P40 million annually in the latest years.

The Lapids have not and resolved claims through their representatives.

Vice Gov. Jennifer Gunio, who has kept a close watch on alleged quarry irregularities, said he would continue pursuing the graft case against former Lapid and provincial treasurer Abigail Salas.

Gunio noted a "discrepancy" of P327 million between the collections of the Sand Resources Development Unit from 1999 to 2001 and the other Lapid's administration from 2002 to 2004.

In the case he filed at the Office of the Ombudsman in March, Gunio said between 1999 and 2001 and P1 billion might have been lost to graft from 2002 to the last two months of 2007 under the younger Lapid's administration. Estelle Ortejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

PAMPANGA VICE Gov. Yeng Guiao is not alone anymore in the war on quarrying revenue theft.

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2. By visiting the Green Army website: www.greenarmynetwork.net, then click "Register"
3. By calling the Green Army Secretariat at 3865028 or 29

Memorial to fallen tree: Pining for Baguio pine

From page A1

finally hauled and dropped to shock in the dead of night by ILU planners."

"ILU had pretty much ignored Ewing's crusade ... Dwelt far have a right to free speech," said Ed Espiritu, ILU vice president for student affairs.

"But we followed rules as we can build a day care center and a multi-purpose gym, we consulted with the city government, including planting 40 more pine tree seedlings around the day-care center area," he said.

Seedlings for a tree

"ILU did not even cut the tree until we exhausted all the proper routes, including planting 40 more pine tree seedlings around the day-care center area," he said.

Samuel Pelaflel, Cordillera director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the tree would not have survived had the building designers built the day-care center around it.

Another tree

"I actually admire Ewing's compassion. [for trees]," Espiritu said.

He said Ewing and the university previously fought over another pine tree in April, whose branches were trimmed.

That tree is located on the sidewalk along a road approaching the Bell-Kliat triangle where Ewing first used SUV's and driveway to harass.

Espiritu said Ewing mistook the pruning for an attempt to kill it and complained to ILU.

"I told him we had nothing to do with it, and that maybe it was the telephone company that trimmed it as the branches would not interfere with its lines," Espiritu said.

Like Bush

He said he later found out that Ewing had been paying a school guard to cheat the road of cigarette butts and pine tree leaves that collect there each day.

He said this described a man who would do anything for his beliefs.

Ewing had gone the extra mile for her, sending out letters through e-mail that criticized ILU and its president, Fr. Jesse Bernhoeve, comparing the priest to US President George W. Bush because Ewing supposedly shared environmentalist policies.

Besides taking out late Sunday advertisement, Ewing also put up a website, www.shapeshare.com, which features video clips that show SLU workers pruning concrete around the tree.

Prayers of forgiveness

The fourteen ran a stop-and-go sign while he and three women volunteers spent a whole day in June tying green ribbons around the arms of pedestrians to seek support for their campaign to save the pine tree.

The advertisement placed by the Sea of Green Movement was simply titled: "... it was unnecessary," and was in gridsheet by a black and white picture of the tree.

It asked supporters to leave flowers at the construction site where the tree used to stand.

"Expressions of forgiveness are requested for the SLU planners," it said.

The advertisement also featured Pelaflel's letter that justifies the measures by the CEDB of a permit to cut the tree, and Ewing's reply.

"If there is a will to preserve the tree, a way will be found. It is the will to preserve the tree than its uprooting," Ewing wrote.

FULL-PAGE obituary announces the demise of a pine tree

SELF-PROCLAIMED SAVIOR OF BAGUIO'S PINE TREES: Last month, Tess Ewing, a math teacher, started his crusade by going up to pedestrians and handing them green ribbons to call attention to the one-man fight against a university which scheduled axing an pine trees.

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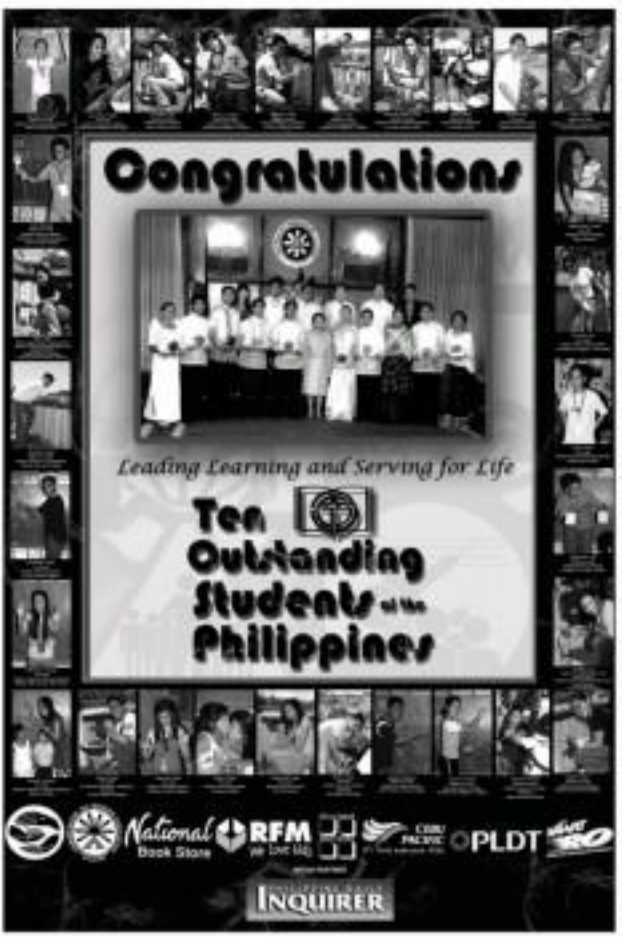

Imelda visits PGH, 'scene of crime'

From page A1

jail—the only conviction out of the 900 cases filed in court."

"I went in cry," she said alternating the various words of the 1,000-bed public hospital originally built in 1907 and renovated by Marcos in 1981. "My suffering and persecution were not in vain."

In a most-genial tactic, but her anger up, the 78-year-old Marcos posed for photos and shook hands with patients and hospital employees who were unperturbed—and unimpressed—to see the former first lady in their midst.

In 1981, Marcos, then governor of Metro Manila, justified a plan to construct a modern rail way system and reported the PGH using a loan of P1 billion from the Belgian government.

Marcos said she was to secure the 20-year "soft loan" from his good friend, the queen of Belgium.

When the railway project was completed, Marcos, who chaired the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), saw that the property under the LRT was idle. She decided to lease the lands to the PGH Foundation, of which she was president, for the measly sum of P1,000 per month.

"I was only trying to be creative, only running good ties. Two redevelopment also pain, corrupt also also the land was idle, they said it was redevelopment, they said I was corrupt," she said.

Court records, however, showed that the LRTA leased the idle property to the PGHF for P100,000 a month for 25 years.

A few weeks later, Marcos, as president of PGHF, subleased to the private Transnational Construction Corp. (TNCC) The sublease for P750,000 a month, which was 0.0002,000 more than what the PGHF was paying the LRTA.

Her lawyers said the sublease pays proceeds from the lease were used to renovate the PGH.

In 1993, the Sandiganbayan convicted Marcos and former Transportation Minister Jose Dans for entering into an unfavorable lease contract with the LRTA, the PGHF and the TNCC.

In January 1998, the Supreme Court third division acquitted Marcos on one charge but upheld her conviction on the second charge, which carried a maximum prison term of 12 years. She was also fined P10,000 million. Dans was acquitted.

SC acquitted

In October 1998, the Supreme Court en banc acquitted Marcos, overturning her conviction in the only case in which she had been found guilty.

The PGH, however, pointed out to website that no connection was finished with a loan from the Social Security System, nor from the Philippine government or from the PCIB Foundation (but Marcos once headed.

The graft case involving the PGH renovation was filed in the 1990s, one among the more than 50 cases filed against the estimated $10 billion Marcos wealth amassed by the Marcos from 1965 until they were ousted in a bloodless people's revolution in 1986.

Ex-Lacson aide faces 10 years in US prison

From page A1

They maintain that the "serious disruption" he caused to the American government outweighed any benefit he should receive for pleading guilty in the conspiracy.

Prosecutors also said Aquino posed a "danger to the national security, including the foreign relations, of the United States" by arranging to destabilize and overthrow President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

They also involved the theft of classified national defense documents from the White House and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

After pleading guilty in the case was Leandro Aragoncillo, a former US Marine who worked as a military aide to Vice Presidents Al Gore and Dick Cheney before becoming an FBI intelligence analyst.

Aragoncillo is to be sentenced Wednesday also before US District Judge William B. Nelle.

Supervisory Lawyer Mark A. Beckner has said the client should be given a prison sentence of less than four years.

US veep Dick Cheney

In a court filing last week, Gervase said that prosecutors had "gotten into bed" with Aragoncillo "to mend the politically embarrassing fact that there was a traitor in the Office of the Vice President long before (Ayatollah) came into the picture."

Aquino "stands ready to be punished, but he should not be punished for the actions of murderers," Gervase wrote.

Aquino, 43, pleaded guilty in July 2006 to a deal that spared him a life term of restricted of espionage. He admitted possessing secret documents containing information on the classified "Stargate" intelligence program and methods, as well as information on terrorist threats to US military personnel in the Philippines.

Recipients of the secret documents in the Philippines included former President Joseph Estrada, other was arrested six years ago, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former House Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, according to court documents.

Estrada and Lacson have acknowledged receiving information from Aquino on Aragoncillo, but have denied any wrongdoing.

Aquino was once a senior officer serving under Lacson in the PNP. He fled to the United States to escape murder charges in 2001 and lived with his wife and son in New York City. After serving his prison term, he is likely to be deported.

Aragoncillo fled to the United States after being implicated in the November 2000 murder of publisher Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corpuz.

AQUINO (above) American prosecutors want maximum penalty for him for allegedly posing a danger to "national security." RIAN LAGNCILO/ To his sentenced today, July 18.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Dacer murder suspect

MICHAEL RAY AQUINO ALAVARES FELIX, senior noncommissioned, involved an espionage charge and a possible life sentence by closed-door guilty before a US court in July 2006 for unauthorized possession of US defense documents.

Aquino is accused of assisting in 2000 classified documents about Opinio Analysis Main Laundry Assignment, a Filipino division-can arm worked as at US Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. Aquino allegedly transmitted 451 of these documents to political associates of his during.

Aquino admitted to receiving a week from Aragoncillo but said he had no way of knowing whether to not the information was classified.

Aquino was arrested in his New York residence on April 10, 2006 for espionage. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct 6, 2005.

Aquino fled to the United States after being implicated in the November 2000 murder of publisher Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corpuz. —GVD I.

Researchers, Inquirer Research

Aragoncillo's former boss, Estrada, was convicted in his case.

The Justice secretary said his requested the Philippine government to use the evidence gathered by the US authorities to pin down Aquino in going after his fellow conspirators.

But Gonzalez said that whether Aquino would be sent indicted to the Philippines would depend on the US government.

"We will have to study our next actions. We have to check what would be done. Let's wait for what will happen," he said. Reports from AP and Leila B. Salaverria

DENR to employees: Your job or your Friendster

From page A1

they spend hours surfing and chatting way beyond their lunch breaks. But not at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Undersecretary Jose H. Power Jr. has issued a memorandum reminding employees at the DENR main office to refrain from playing computer games or chatting online during office hours or face sanctions.

"It sends a very wrong message to the public if they see a government employee chatting or playing games instead of being there to serve the public," Power told reporters yesterday.

Neither does it conform to "proper office decorum," he added.

Power received reports that some employees were glued to their computer screens playing games, surfing Friendster, chatting long after their bonebreg lunch break was over.

"They usually play games or chat during lunch break. After their lunch break, some were observed still engrossed in what they were doing. We don't let that go unnoticed," he said.

Power, however, said the situation had not become unmanageable, as he merely issued a "mildly worded" memorandum to some 1,000 employees at the main office last Friday.

Proper work ethic

In the memorandum, the undersecretary for management and technical services said the department wished to remind its employees about the proper work ethic.

"There's nothing illegal (about) chatting during the lunch break," he said. "We don't have a problem with the Internet as long as it's used productively."

If they had a lot of free time, employees should request "additional assignments" from supervisors, the official said.

With the memorandum, Power said he expected heads of divisions and offices in the DENR main building to check on their staff during office hours and to make sure they used the time.

"Both the officers and staff should be responsible enough to check if that's still happening, and if it continues to happen after this memo," he said.

If an employee is caught committing a "misdemeanor," he gets a written warning, then a suspension and then a separation order, as spelled out in Civil Service rules, according to the official.

Better at solitaire

"For now, we don't want to issue a written warning yet if we could exercise (the situation) by educating our education to the division heads that their staff is getting below at solitaire," Power said in jest.

The official did not rule out the option of blocking the employees' access to the Internet during office hours.

"We will come to that if employees flagrantly violate this memorandum. That's one of the remedial measures we can take," he said.

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NEWS

NBI apologizes to broadcaster

Says there's no evidence Korina is recruiter or investor in pyramid scam

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has apologized to broadcaster Korina Sanchez for saying she was an investor in Pyramiwin, an alleged pyramid scam now behind bars.

Lawyer Raul Lazada, NBI National Capital Region director, said the bureau issued a "letter of comfort" to Sanchez "whose name was only dragged into the controversy."

"We regret the undue publicity brought to your name in relation to the Pyramiwin or 5Y investment syramiding scam. Apparently, in view of your popularity and credibility as a media personality, the persons behind the scam were unscrupulously using your good name to entice potential victims into investing in the fraudulent venture," Lazada said in the July 16 letter to Sanchez.

Based on the NBI's preliminary investigation, Lazada, who met with Sanchez's lawyer on Monday, said there was no basis for linking Sanchez to Pyramiwin.

"There exists no reason or basis to believe that you have acted for or in behalf of these scam artists. We express our apologies for your apprehensions," the letter said.

Last week, the NBI listed Sanchez among the prominent personalities who got money—a minimum of $1,000—in Pyramiwin.

Sanchez, who was reported to have invested P75 million, was supposedly recruited by a Jay Chavella, who was a "downline" of Gerard Cusilla, the alleged chief financial adviser of Pyramiwin who was arrested by the NBI two weeks ago.

The names of prominent people like Sanchez were used only to entice investors but to justify their actions, the NBI said.

A text message reportedly sent out to Pyramiwin investors last week discussed "PR advisory: To all investors, certain calls. The scam will resume anytime. Korina will fix bad publicity as soon as she gets back from the States. We are not violating any law we are not pyramiding scam because even if we are not recruiting we can get our interest. Pyramiwin is doing its part for the people."

"It's her living and prayer to tell the truth that, as of the moment, we found no evidence to prove that she was among the investors or that she recruited people. We suspect her name was only used by those behind Pyramiwin because of her marketing (pull), she's popular and credible," Lazada said.

In whatever manner directly when asked if Sanchez was off the hook, merely reiterating that the investigation was ongoing.

"Maybe if somebody comes forward and claims that he's an aggrieved party," Lazada said.

Aplus METRO

DID YOU KNOW

EQUITABLE PCI Bank merged recently with Ayala-controlled Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI). Shareholders of both banks approved the merger last December. The Securities and Exchange Commission approved the merger last last month. The bank is now called BPI-EPCI Inc.

Cyril C. Bonalos Jupiter Reward

2 peacemakers die in bid to stop fight

Brothers flee after shooting victims

By Julie M. Aurelio

FOR TRYING TO BREAK UP A fight, two men were shot dead after midnight yesterday on Tramo Street in Pasay City.

Rizalito de Guzman and Reginald Heredia died on the spot when they were shot in the back by brothers Ramilo and Ramie Gaa.

Both victims were residents of Maryjen Compound in General Trias, Cavite.

The Gaa brothers, who immediately fled on the motorbike, lived on F. Varon Street in Pasay City.

Investigators learned that the suspects accosted their neighbor, Manuel Bagan, 34, for reasons still not clear to the police, at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday. Ramilo first pointed a cal. .38 revolver at Bagan's face and pulled the trigger.

The gun, however, misfired, according to case investigator PO3 Joel Landrito.

At this point, the victims, who were watching the incident from afar, decided to mediate between the Gaa brothers and Bagan.

Dr. Ramiro tried to take away Ramilo's gun but Ramiro took out a gun and shot the former in the head.

He then shot Heredia in the head and left the scene with his brother, leaving the victims sprawled on the street.

Revillame posts bail for abuse charge

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TELEVISION HOST WILFRIDO "WILLIE" Revillame yesterday posted bail in connection with a complaint his wife filed against him last year.

Accompanied by his legal counsel Demet Lacsamana, Revillame arrived at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 83 at around 9:30 a.m. and posted the P12,000 bail bond, handed by the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for his temporary liberty.

Assistant City Prosecutor Gilson Amado Jr., in a resolution issued earlier this month, found probable cause in the criminal complaint filed against Revillame by his wife, Floralino "Liz" Minoves, who accused him of displaying violent behavior toward her and their son.

Amado said the evidence on record was "sufficient to indict Revillame" for violating Republic Act No. 9262, or the law protecting women and children from violence.

Lacsamana said Revillame's team of lawyers, which also includes Raymund Fortun and Armando Marcelo, would move within the week to discuss their next possible course of action. "One of the options being considered is the filing of a petition for review," said Lacsamana.

Affected

He added that while Revillame was affected by recent developments in the case, "he has come to terms with what has happened, he has accepted the inevitability that he has to continue the case," Lacsamana said.

The lawyer added that Revillame and his wife have not spoken to each other since their separation. "I cannot give further comments on their personal lives because these are intricately connected to the civil case which is covered by a gag order," Lacsamana said.

Revillame's lawyer said the "Pinoymoney" host has been drawing strength from supporters and ABS-CBN, producer of the game show.

In a complaint filed in October 2006, Minoves charged Revillame with threatening to hurt her and their son during one of their fights. On Aug. 6, the couple's husband-and-wife lawyers also asked him what went wrong. The incident happened inside their house in Spring Heights, Quezon City, she added.

Minoves claimed Revillame also threw his arms about, hitting their son. At one point, he grabbed the boy and shook the screaming child. But before he calmed down and left, Amanda noted in his resolution that one of the incidents was witnessed by actress Maricel Laxa, who pacified a severe contusion to substantiate Ahmad's allegation.

Revillame had denied the charges, saying that he was an "exemplary husband and a provider," despite Ahmad's "explosive moods and baneful tirades."

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PNP bucks Palao murder trial transfer to Cebu

By Kristine L. Alave

MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS Special Operations Task Force (ADSOTF) of the Philippine National Police and prosecutors handling the cases against alleged drug lord Amin Imam Boratong have organized disappointment over the Supreme Court Third Division's ruling to transfer the murder trial of Ismaro Palao, three main witness against Boratong, from Manila to Cebu City.

ADSOTF Lawyers Roque Mendoza said they would file a counter-case in the Third Division opposing the transfer.

He noted that the ruling contradicts a previous decision by the court on June 20 to allow the trial—originally set in Cagayan de Oro City—to the Manila Regional Trial Court. Prosecutors also said the ruling would delay the cases against Boratong and his wife Almaie in the Iloilo City Regional Trial Court. It would also be a logistical nightmare if the cases—reportedly overall—Palao is testifying against Boratong, they added.

Boratong, who is accused of maintaining the 3,000-sq.m shabu market in Iloilo City that was raided by members of the PNP-ADSOTF in February 2006, is being tried on illegal drug charges at the Iloilo City RTC.

Palao claims he saw Boratong's right hand man in the shabu market operations.

Some prosecutors recently filed murder charges against the Boratongs and their henchmen in another Iloilo City court for the alleged murder of television network GMA 7 informant Gremam Collinan in 2003. The hearing for the case has yet to start.

In a June 20 resolution, the Supreme Court's Third Division ordered the transfer of Palao's murder trial in Manila to Cebu City after the defense demanded a transfer of venue in the alleged crime was committed for the Iloilo. The charge was filed last year by Moises Boratong's family who claimed that Palao killed trapped and killed Almaie's brother.

The PNP-ADSOTF had also opposed the transfer of Palao's trial to Cagayan de Oro, saying they received reports that his life would be in danger if he sets foot in Mindanao, where they claim the Boratongs wield some degree of influence.

PROTESTERS hold a rally near Mendiola, one of the first to be held in the area, after Mayor Alfredo Lim declared it open to militant groups.

3 men nabbed in QC drug bust ordered released

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE FORMER MAYOR OF A TOWN IN ABRA province and his two companions who were arrested in a drug bust last month were ordered by yesterday after a Quezon City judge granted their petition for habeas corpus.

Judge Ralph Lee of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 83 ordered the release of former Bucloc Mayor Mabel Molina, his driver Bernardo Serrano and businessman Richie Pintanobe after granting their petition against Director Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Group (DAID-SOTG) head Supt. Prudencio Bendal and Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) head Supt. Franklin Mortos Jr.

Court records showed that operatives of the CIDU and DAID-SOTG arrested the three on June 13 in a drug bust conducted at the Inn Cafe, Vernal Apartelle on Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City.

Police reported that they were able to seize from Molina 1 marijuana weighing 940.8 grams, seven marijuana plants bags containing marijuana leaves fruiting tops weighing 112.5 grams, an Amadio rifle, and a cal. .45 pistol from Molina and his companions.

During the inquest proceedings held at the Department of Justice last June 18, the prosecutors availed themselves of their statutory right in a preliminary investigation and voluntarily waived their rights under Article 125 of the Revised Penal Code.

Records showed that the petitioners that filed their respective counter-affidavits within the period given to them by the investigating prosecutor.

Earlier this month, the DOJ dismissed the charges of drug possession and illegal possession of firearms against the three "due to insufficiency of evidence."

Despite the DOJ decision, however, the three said that the respondent police officers refused to release them from detention in Camp Bagong, Quezon City, prompting them to file a petition for habeas corpus.

In granting the petition of Molina and his companions, Lee ruled that there were "no other legal basis for the continued detention of the three petitioners considering that there were no informations yet filed in any court against them, no warrant of arrest issued to their names, and the preliminary investigation was already terminated by the issuance of a resolution dated July 6, 2007 dismissing the charges against them."

MetroBriefs

Man dies in accidental shooting

A SECURITY guard in Quezon City was killed on Monday night after his gun accidentally fired as he was playing with it. Rueben Tibaya, 37, of Bo Bunga, Barangay Apanay, was declared dead on arrival at the Fetal hospital after he was shot once in the chest. His 25-year-old co-employee, Alfie Bautista, was a step behind at 10 Bunga, Apanay St. in Barangay Santol, was arrested after the incident. According to the police, Tibaya left his car, 20 calibre revolver in Bautista's care when he went to a nearby store to buy cigarettes. Bautista allegedly played around with the gun and it accidentally went off, hitting the victim in the chest. Tibaya was rushed to the nearest hospital but he died later on. Bautista, on the other hand, was placed in the custody of the police who will file homicide charges against him.

Jaymee T. Gamil with

Motorcycle driver killed

A MAN was killed and his companion was seriously injured when their motorcycle skidded into a large concrete flower pot and other ornaments in Pasig City yesterday. Police identified the dead victim as Reynaldo Ariate, 35, a contractual worker and a resident of Bagong ang, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. His companion, Theo Mabuhay, 30, also a resident of the same village, was brought to the Pasig City General Hospital. According to the police report, Ariate was driving a motorcycle, and Mabuhay was riding behind him, on San Miguel Avenue, in Barangay Pinagbuhatan when the accident occurred at about 12:20 a.m. The report said that Ariate tried to overtake a car that was in front of the bike. Police said the rider was driving too fast and lost control of it. Both, where he underwent surgery, and was taken to the nearest hospital.

Kristine L. Alave

Lim to pick new MPD chief

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim might pick from either of police officers to be appointed to the Philippine National Police the next head of the Manila Police District. Lim was quoted in early yesterday as saying that he was satisfied with the performance of acting MPD chief Senior Supt. Danilo Maestrecia. "PNP chief Director General Oscar Calderon said he will submit names for my consideration. I would be the one to choose," Lim said. "But so far, General Maestrecia's doing okay."

Tina G. Santos

Lim to study Mendiola exclusion as rally site

By Tina G. Santos

"I'LL THINK ABOUT IT."

This was Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's response yesterday to Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon who asked him the other day to reconsider his decision to reopen the Don Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola Bridge) to demonstrators.

"I'll study his proposal," said Lim, referring to Calderon's suggestion to declare Mendiola from the list of approved rally sites.

Citing security reasons, Calderon earlier said militant groups had other venues for staging protests such as Liwasang Bonifacio and other freedom parks in the city.

According to the PNP chief, Mendiola was a very sensitive and very critical area since it was the site of several schools as well as the gateway to Malacañang.

Lim, however, seemed unconvinced. "Sa isa, sabihin ni Mendiola for the past two Sundays were peaceful, there was no problem," he said.

"They were probably concerned that there would be trouble, but the police and Presidential Security Group are there," Lim added.

When he was as mayor in May Lim vowed to reopen Mendiola Bridge to protesters after it was declared a no-rally zone by his predecessor, Lito Atienza.

Lim, however, later limited the holding of rallies in the area to weekends.

Taytay wants to join big league, aims for cityhood

By Kristine L. Alave

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF Taytay, Rizal, has kicked off its bid to become a city in the province that has become an extension of Metro Manila.

Taytay Mayor Joric Gavela recently appointed his head executive assistant, Billy Isaro, as head the committee on cityhood.

Local officials want to embark fully to status from a highly industrialized municipality to component city. The mayor explained that the town has been getting investments from major firms like 3M Prime Investments Inc. and call center agencies because of its proximity to Manila.

The cityhood committee was tasked to oversee the pros and cons of becoming a component city, validate whether or not the municipality is "ripe" for cityhood and to get the sentiments of residents and businessmen regarding the proposal.

Gavela said the municipal government is verifying and working on the requirements for cityhood as stipulated in the Local Government Code.

He noted that they are aiming to boost the town's revenues to P160-million this year, 9% million more than what it earned in 2006.

Gavela presided his committee that he would impose a moratorium on new businesses in Taytay because a city to maintain and encourage growth among businesses in the area.

Taytay is classified as a first class municipality, with a land area of 3,374 ha and a population of nearly 280,000 people.

Suspect in reporter's slay attempt nabbed

By Tina G. Santos, Nancy C. Carvajal

MANILA POLICE CHIEF DIRECTOR ARTURO MERCADO announced the suspect in the shooting of a tabloid reporter-photographer in Valenzuela City last year.

Jerome Talavera de Jesus alias Boy Demonyo was arrested in a karaoke bar in Malabon, Manila, said Supt. Reynaldo Orense, head of the Northern Police District Intelligence unit.

De Jesus was being sought for allegedly shooting Roger Pantoja, 32, a photojournalist for Bagong Tibak on Aug. 14 in Sta. Juliana Street, Malinta, Valenzuela City.

Pantoja suffered several gunshot wounds but survived the attack. He later identified his attacker as De Jesus, saying he could easily get the nods on the right side of the suspect's face. De Jesus, however, refused to say why he shot Pantoja, and was later turned over to the police for further investigation.

Mike Arroyo case vs Jinggoy junked

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FRIDAY CITY COURT HAS DISMISSED the motion of Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to withdraw the P4.5-million libel suit he filed against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada last year.

Judge Wilhelmina Jorge-Wagan of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 111 last week ordered the dismissal of the case a month after Arroyo moved to withdraw the charges he filed against the senator who had linked him to an alleged smuggler.

In an order dated July 12, the judge granted the prosecution's motion to be arraigned while the prosecution would have a hand time proving the charges without Arroyo's cooperation.

"Considering that accused Estrada has not yet been arraigned as this court has not yet acquired jurisdiction over his person, and the difficulty of the prosecution to prove the guilt of accused without the active cooperation of the private complainant (Arroyo), the motion to drop the charges is granted," Wagan said.

In April, after recovering from a delicate heart operation, Arroyo announced that he would withdraw all the cases he filed against Estrada and personalities whom he had accused of instigating his imprisonment.

On June 6, he filed an affidavit of desistance asking the Pasay court to drop the libel charges he filed against Estrada.

"According to Arroyo, he has decided to forgive those who caused him pain after being given a new lease on life.

However, Estrada failed to vote more on the affidavit of desistance and the motion to withdraw filed by Arroyo's camp despite a court order giving him 15 days to do so.

In March 2006, Arroyo sued Estrada for libel after the latter claimed that Yicky Teh, whom he said had a special relationship with the President's husband, was associated with alleged big-time smuggler, Samuel Lee.

The senator was almost arrested a few months later if not for the intervention of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

In a memorandum to Pasay City Prosecutor Elmer Wilfe in August 2006, Gonzalez said Estrada "enjoys parliamentary immunity from arrest for offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment."

The other day a Quezon City judge also junked a libel case Arroyo filed against journalist Ramon Tulfo and his brothers, Boy and Erwin, after the President's husband expressed displeasure in pursuing the case.

WORLDBRIEFS

Death for slavery

BEIJING — Nine men in China were sentenced to death on Tuesday and 25 people were handed jail terms in the first verdicts over a slavery scandal that shocked the nation. Judge Liu Zhen-ming, a provincial employee who confessed on national television to selling a mentally handicapped man, was given the death penalty. High Court Judge Liu Jinlin said, "The officials got whatever they deserved." The officials were convicted of ranging from two years to life. The scandal came to light last month after about 400 distraught parents posted a plea on the Internet about their children, who they had been told into slavery in China's northern Shanxi province and neighboring Henan province. Up to 31 enslaved workers have since been rescued, but the true number of victims is widely believed to be far higher. AFP

Nuke shutdown confirmed

SEOUL — The UN's nuclear watchdog confirmed Monday that North Korea has shut the nuclear reactor that produces bomb-making plutonium but the chief UN negotiator forecast problems ahead over ridding Pyongyang its totally abandon its nuclear ambitions. "Our inspectors are there. They confirmed the shutting down of the reactor yesterday," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Mohamed ElBaradei said in Bangkok. "It's a good step in the right direction." The North announced Sunday it had closed the Yongbyon nuclear complex. Its five-step pact 2007 consent ending a program which culminated in six atomic bomb test Oct. 2006. AFP

$190M Palestinian aid

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush on Monday will offer new support for the Hamas-led government of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, marking a higher-profile effort to revitalize the Middle East peace. Bush will announce $190 million in new aid to the Abbas government, US officials said. He will reaffirm his vision of a Palestinian state at peace with Israel and call for a meeting this autumn to discuss ways to get the peace talks back on track. After the violent takeover last month of the Gaza Strip by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, Western governments have rallied behind Abbas with promises of renewed aid. Reuters

Libya defers ruling on nurses

TRIPOLI — Libya's top judiciary body has postponed until Monday rulings in a ruling to decide the fate of six foreign medics sentenced to death for infecting Libyan children with the AIDS virus, officials and lawyers said. Government officials also confirmed the postponement but neither they nor the lawyers gave any explanation. Five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor were found guilty in 2004 of deliberately infecting 426 Libyan children with the virus that causes AIDS while working at a children's hospital in the city of Benghazi. Reuters

SPY MURDER ROW

Britain expels Russian diplomats

LONDON — BRITAIN ORDERED THE expulsion of four Russian diplomats on Monday over Moscow's refusal to hand over the main suspect in the murder of ex-KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko, further escalating tensions between Russia and the West.

Russia said the decision was "immoral," would prompt retaliation, and could only "wreak the most serious consequences for Russian-British relations," according to a foreign ministry spokesperson.

Aside from the expulsions, the first since 1996 — Britain said it would make it harder for Russian officials to come to the country, review cooperation on other issues and watched the case could harm Russia's ties with the European Union as a whole.

"This is a situation the government has not sought and does not welcome. But we have no choice but to address it," British Foreign Secretary David Miliband told parliament.

British prosecutors want to charge former Russian state security agent Andrei Lugovoy with the murder of Litvinenko, who died in agonizing death in a London hospital after ingesting a lethal dose of the rare radioactive isotope polonium-210.

Russia has rejected Britain's request to hand over Lugovoy saying its constitution does not allow extradition. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the demand is politically motivated.

"We have chosen to expel four diplomats — four particular diplomats — in order to send a clear and proportionate signal to the Russian government about the seriousness of the case," said Miliband, adding he was grateful for strong EU support.

"We will discuss with partners the need for future EU-Russia engagement to take our concerns on this case into account," Relations between Russia and the West have deteriorated with both Washington and the European Union at loggerheads with Moscow over issues ranging from missile defense and energy politics to the future of Serbia's Kosovo province.

Interfax news agency quoted an "informed source in Moscow", a Kremlin-connected official, as saying the Russian response would not necessarily be in kind.

"That is not our principle," said the source. "It would bring us back to the days of the Cold War. It's a shame that some have this principle enmeshed deep in their minds."

Analysts also found this sentiment, echoing those within the British opposition, would provoke a robust response from Russia. They did not expect the row to escalate insofar as it might harm economic relations.

"I don't think there'll do anything that will jeopardize that," said Derek Averre, Russia specialist at Birmingham University. "There won't be a massive kind of escalation because it's simply not in Moscow's interests."

Moscow has dismissed as ridiculous Litvinenko's deathbed accusation that Putin ordered his killing. Reuters

Triple bomb blasts kill over 80 in Kirkuk, Iraq

BAGHDAD — A TRIPLE BOMBING, INCLUDING a massive suicide truck blast, killed more than 80 people in Kirkuk, the deadliest attack yet in the oil-rich northern city. The bloodshed reinforced concern that extremists are heading north as US-led forces step up pressure around Baghdad.

The vast majority of the casualties came in Monday's suicide bombing, which blasted a nine-meter-deep crater and damaged part of the roof of the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the party of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani. The explosion took place in a crowded commercial area and appeared aimed at causing as many civilian deaths as possible.

Hassan Ahmed, 35, said he was driving along the street when the blast "pushed other vehicles toward my car along with fire and dropped like a flood."

"The glass from my car and the other cars were into my face," he said from his hospital bed. "Now I cannot hear well because of the sound of the explosion. I saw tens of dead bodies lying on the ground."

Kirkuk, 290 km north of Baghdad, is a center of simmering ethnic tensions between Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs, who want to include the area in the autonomous Kurdish region of the north.

With three ethnic groups competing for control, violence in Kirkuk has been frequent, but Monday's blasts were on a far bigger scale than most attacks.

After the truck bombing, rescuers assembled through the smoke and the debris lifting blood-red and broken bodies onto stretchers. The force of the blast ripped clothing off some victims.

At least 10 shops were damaged, as was part of the tower in nearby Kirkuk Castle, a historic fortress that is one of the city's most prominent landmarks. The street was strewn with blackened husks of new cluster cars.

The blast killed at least 80 people and wounded more than 180, according to police Brig. Sarhan Tayeb Taha. At least 30 of the victims were transported inside a bus that was engulfed by a ball of fire.

Twenty minutes later, a car bomb exploded about 600 m away in the busier outdoor market, frequented by Turks. Kirkuk police chief Brig. Gen. Jamal Taher said. The market was largely empty after the first attack, and the explosion caused several injuries.

Hours later, a car bomb exploded in the Domiz region of northern Kirkuk, killing two police officers and wounding six other police, according to Taher.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki condemned the Kirkuk blasts as a "cowardly act" by "terrorist" who intentionally targeted "innocent people." AP

ONLOOKERS stand atop the concert hall behind where a suicide bomber detonated a truck armed with explosives near a Kurdish political party's offices, followed by two other car bomb blasts, in the northern city of Kirkuk 290 km north of Baghdad, Iraq, on July 16. →

OVER THE HUMP WEDNESDAY

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The WORLD

Japan quake triggers leaks at nuke plant

KASHIWAZAKI—A POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE TIPPED OVER BARrels of nuclear waste at a power plant in northern Japan, and officials Tuesday were investigating whether there were any radioactive leaks as thousands of quake survivors crowded shelters.

The death toll stood at over a day after the 6.8-magnitude quake. One person was missing and another 13,000 weakened homeless, as rescue workers rushed to locate any survivors in the rubble—amid fears of landslides—and to restore severed utilities.

The quake caused a leak of water with radioactive material on Monday at the world's largest nuclear power plant in Kashiwazaki city, near the epicenter, although officials said the leak caused no harm to the environment.

On Tuesday, officials were investigating a possible second leak, saying about 100 barrels [illegible] containing low-level nuclear waste fell at the plant during the quake and were found a day later, some of the lids open, said Masakuki Ishikawa, an official with the local government in Niigata prefecture.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., company running the plant, was still trying to determine whether any hazardous material had spilled, he said, citing a report by the company.

Ikuatsu Takeuchi, a spokesperson at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant, confirmed that barrels of low-level nuclear waste had tipped over but he could not give further details, such as whether there had been a leak.

"We're currently investigating the situation and plan to deal with it as smoothly as possible," Takeuchi said, while refusing to offer further comment.

A different spokesperson, Manabu Takeyama, said "at this point in time, there is no danger of grave effects on the environment or human health from the plant."

Another leak at the Kashiwazaki power plant would sow further doubts about the safety of Japan's nuclear power plants, which have suffered a string of accidents and scandals amid deep concern they are vulnerable to earthquakes.

Monday's quake initially triggered a small fire at an electrical transformer in the generating plant, but it was announced only 12 hours later that the tremblor also caused a leak of water containing radioactive material.

Officials said the water leak was harmless and well below safety standards, but the delay is nothing the public ignored concern among environmental activists.

The Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant is the world's largest in terms of power output capacity. Fifty-five reactors supply about 30 percent of Japan's electricity.

"The damage is more than we had imagined," Kashiwazaki Mayor Hiroshi Aida said while inspecting damaged areas of his town. "We want to restore the water supply as soon as possible so more people can return home."

Nine people in their 70s or 80s—six women and three men—were killed in the quake, and 47 were seriously injured. AP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Rock-solid Warriors in fiery start /A30

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dichoso

Text us your feedback: inquirer.sports@inquirer.com.ph

- Rising stars eye Landis, Armstrong status /A32

FIESTA CUP FINALS

Phone Pals try to finish off Aces

RP Open badminton championships fires off today /A32

TALK 'N TEXT's JJ Sullinger steps on his coach after getting tagged with a hard foul by Willie Miller (right) of Alaska.

RP five's final lineup known on eve of Fiba Asia caging

By Francis Dichoso

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ALAY SA PALATANDAANG BAYAN

POC: Booters' SEAG stint a matter of national pride

By Jane Navarro

FILLING THE NATIONAL FOOTball team in the Southeast Asian Games is an extraordinary record in the biennial meet—it's a matter of pride.

That's how the Philippine Olympic Committee feels over the possibility of wasting out football and other team sports in the Games due of Dec. 6-16 in Thailand.

"It's the world's most popular sport," said POC secretary general Mark Joseph. "Why can't we send one if countries like Laos and Cambodia never fail to send one in the SEA Games?"

POC chair Rubert Aranzanso shares Joseph's sentiment, saying the resumption of interest in football among Filipinos is already being felt.

"In the last two years, (BF) Interlaser have quite an attraction because of foreign players with Filipino roots," said Aranzanso.

Stags battle Blazers today; Cards vs Altas

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	4	0
Lyceum	4	0
JRU	3	1
St. Benilde	2	2
Perpetual	2	2
Jose Rizal	1	3
EAC	1	3
Mapua	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(Filoil Flying V Centre)
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs Jose Rizal
4 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Lyceum vs EAC
4 p.m.—San Beda vs St. Benilde

GAMES SATURDAY
(Filoil Flying V Centre)
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs Mapua
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs JRU

GAMES SUNDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—EAC vs St. Benilde
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Lyceum

GAMES NEXT WEEK
(Filoil Flying V Centre)
July 15
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs JRU
4 p.m.—Mapua vs Jose Rizal
July 16
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Lyceum
4 p.m.—San Beda vs EAC
July 17
2 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs Perpetual
4 p.m.—JRU vs Mapua
July 18
2 p.m.—EAC vs Lyceum
4 p.m.—St. Benilde vs San Beda

RP Junior World bets out to impress anew

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—FOLLOWING last year's unprecedented triple victory, expectations are high that the Philippine delegation will continue its winning streak in the Callaway Junior World Golf Championships which starts Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) in various venues here.

Dottie Ardina, Cesar Rodriguez and Rita Legaspi—authors of the 2007 championship treble, by far the country's best in its 20-year participation in the event—are set for the fourth run again of the Philippine campaign.

The Filipinos' cause is further boosted by the presence of two other former winners, Tabitha Ramirez and Jhi Rodriguez.

Ardina, winner of the WPGA national junior championship last week in Ohio, joins for her third Junior World crown, this time in the 13-14 years age group which the Filipinos topped last? PGE.

Rodriguez will now play in the 15-17 category.

The inexperienced Legaspi point for a repeat in the girls' 7-8 years division.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed," said Jhoi Stephenson, head of the 42-strong delegation from the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines which enjoys the support of Philippine Airlines, Callaway Golf and Asahi. In quiver: Golf and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

THE 40-member RP team during the Junior World parade.

"We've got a number of potential winners, and hopefully, they'll be able to deliver."

The RP players played their final practice rounds on Monday with 10-year-old Ardina Mae Hocson scoring a hole-in-one on the World hole of Golden Oaks at day earlier, Regina de Guzman also made an ace on the 11th hand hole of the Torrey Pines south course with a 9-iron.

The RP entries

Girls 7- 8 -Yr -Olds (Jessy Ynez Beth Soriano—Cara Mae Rodrigo, Regina De Guzman, Mara Dee Lisa Pa-

Jasmine Tampal, Celeen Soria; Boys (Jonas Ynez Isaiah Garcia, John Mar Alcala, Jan Michael Ivan Ma. Alcantara

Girls 9- 10-Yr -Olds (Susan Suarez Tan Dawn—Carla Krista, Angela Ivy Vela, Alyssa Vera, Jessanne Joyce Salvador, Maria Mercedes; Boys (9- to 10-year-olds, Carlo Edward Pajot, Emmanuel Rafael, Jason Dacio

Girls 11- 12-Yr-Olds (Lara Sofia Marie Sandoz Cortez—Anne Claude Galang, Ma. Andrea Dacio, Irene Soriano; Boys (Lito Adrian Soriano, Jeremy Gale—Raymund Fernandez Jr, Jahpari Lee Tanseco, Lorenzo Tiro) (Not Pic, Angelo Jose Sandoza

Girls 13- 14-Yr -Olds (Ann Lei Yason, Kimberly—Kristine Ingrid, Lia Kaela Ng Co, Alexa Hyungjeung; Boys (Joshua Lucas Ty Escudero—Jose Miguel Tan, Ar. Bob Jet Alcala, Mark Anthony Arcadio

Girls 15- 17-Yr -Olds (Susan Suarez (Tina Lynn)—Kim Amelie Lagoso, Lia Kaye Ty (Regina Mendez, Bryn Shayla Reyes), Pena Dela—Yuan Bernales, Jane Wilson Ty, Katherine Ng, Kristine Angela

Girls 5- 6-Yr -Olds (Celine Pick Gil Lacsina)—Francesca Dacanay Isa, Jana Maria Mercado; Boys (Ethan Park Gil Lacsina)—Carol Lance Harvey, Angelo Joaquin Sabalones, Santos Philippe Abcede

Davadilla tops Criterium GP second leg

MARIBEN DAVADILLA HAD FELLOW VETERan Victor Espiritu and Carlo Jurol in a road scramble to the finish and topped the Elite Overall class of the Manila National Criterium Grand Prix second leg on Sunday.

The diminutive Davadilla, the 2006 and 2005 Tour champion, and Jurol wound up 1-2 at the finish line in the Bonifacio City stretch of the Circuito Mayapagal/Boulevard after Espiritu deliberated in the last 30 minutes.

Espiritu, the reigning Bukidnon Pinoy champion, was the first leg of Eastwood to Libis, Quezon City.

"Nung humagod si Victor doon ko na ili at nahirapan sila (When Victor skirted down)," said the 30-year-old Antique second class of his triumph in the criterium race sponsored by Goldman, consolidated Bank and Trust Co., the Philippine Sunday Inquirer and Pasig City government of Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr.

Davadilla, who earned a slot in the National Criterium Grand Prix finals in November, pocketed P6,000. Jurol won P4,000 and Espiritu P2,000 in the one-day fabulous.

Evergreen Elijah of Mindoro ruled the Elite Master class, with Ramon Bongon and Oneide Abayon settling for second and third, respectively.

John Rod Morales topped the Elite Non-Pro division over Nikki Tiburcio and Julius Calderon in the competitions sanctioned by the Philippine Cycling Federation.

The Elite winners

Kilalé Beginner Road: 1 Ireneo Juan, 2 Wilson Ngo, 3 Angel Sy; Beginner B: 1 Edwin Ilao, 2 Jose Nieto, 3 Jay Gonzales Jose; 1 Ace Rosas, 2 Jose Viloria, 3 Alexander Ryan; Recreation Pillar: 1 Jimmy Sadang, 2 Ray Jayson, 3 Philip Angeles

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Reference No. AM07-ELEC-0002

1. The National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region I (NAMACO), through the CY 2007 Corporate Budget of the NAMACO, invites bids for the supply & delivery of Php 1,220,127.84 being the Total Approved Budget for the contract and/or in payments under the contract for the Supply & Delivery of Various Construction/Hardware Materials, Electrical Items & Accessories, Telecommunication Tools, Parts & Accessories, and Electronic Tools/Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The NAMACO will now invites bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply & Delivery of Various Construction/Hardware Materials, Electrical Items & Accessories, Telecommunication Tools, Parts & Accessories, and Electronic Tools/Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. (*)

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1594 and subject to Commonwealth Act No. 138, as to Bidders who have been pre-qualified for this project, as indicated in the paragraph 5 hereof.

4. A complete set of Bidding documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting July 19, 2007 to August 09, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00). The method of payment shall be in CASH. The Bidding documents shall be received only upon the presentation of the Official Receipt issued by the cashier.

5. Bids submitted must be duly sealed in the Bid Conference upon its commencement at 10:00 A.M. of August 09, 2007 at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

6. Bid opening shall be on August 09, 2007 10:00 P.M. at the Action Conference. Bids will be evaluated on an item basis, or for the whole project, as specified in the bidding documents. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to attend the bidding below.

7. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	1% of ABC
2. Bank guarantee	5% of ABC
3. Surety bond	30% of ABC
4. Foreign government guarantee	30% of ABC

or its equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. For opening purposes on or August 09, 2007 10:00 P.M. at the Action Conference. Bids will be evaluated on an item basis, or for the whole project, as specified in the bidding documents. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to attend the bidding below.

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Engr. (Mrs.) JOSEPH G. ENRIQUEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Training camp sharpens up young nat'l triathletes

A WEEKLONG training camp conducted by a veteran triathlon coach has boosted the Philippines' drive to carpet with the continent's finest in the 30 to 40 category.

National team members Elan Elan, gushing and loudmouthed, Andrew and Alex Centenera, Jed Odico and national duathlon/aquatlon champion Jenifer Dionisio, conducted the camp facility Subic Bay Freeport.

Coach Rick Reyes, a veteran of more than 40 international training camps, is supervising the camp.

A separate one-day coaching course was conducted by ITU Sports Development official Alan Lay.

Triathletes from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Chinese Taipei also joined the event held in the Subic Bay Freeport.

"My try to spread the global message on the latest developments in training, with the athletes and coaches in mind," Reyes said. "Asian triathletes are five to 10 years behind world standards, and this is part of ITU's move to upgrade them to world-class level."

Former national women's triathlon champion Nida de Leon, and duathlon coaches Mick Gandia Jr. and Melvin Bacaycomo also joined the coaching accreditation course.

COACH Rick Reyes coaches triathletes in stretching exercises.

TURNER

Four coaches each represented Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore, with Chinese Taipei sending two and Thailand one.

Turner said the camp is part of ITU's worldwide program to develop triathlon in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Americas.

He pointed out that development of top triathletes and coaches will always depend on the support they get from their national associations.

"The response from these young athletes were very positive and I see determination in their eyes. I'm sure from now, I will further.

Ley suggested that Filipino coaches take a deeper look at what they want their athletes to achieve, and that specific items was always to foster their personal objectives.

Local triathlon coach Rick Reyes, who supported the course together with other Thai triathlon coaches, said Ley managed to guide the athletes and coaches to learn more.

Meanwhile, while he attended to a previous triathlon training camp abroad, said the Subic camp was better.

"Coach Turner is solid but we learned a lot from him," she said. Romina G. Asuncion

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SPORTS

RP Open badminton tilt kicks off

Top guns' withdrawal won't help Pinoy cause

By Romina S. Aurelio

DESPITE THE WITHDRAWAL of some participants, Filipino badminton players face a formidable task when they go up against some of the world's finest shuttlers in the $120,000-Ringo Bonanza Philippine Open which comes off the wraps today at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

In fact, hotel top guns like Romanian dominion, Gorel Dronza, Kristin Velez and Jesse Chiu had to go through the qualifying round, still playing as of press time, to make the main draw.

That is why Philippine Badminton Association president Amelita Ibanez has called on badminton enthusiasts to rally behind the Philippine team.

"Of course we can't be champions even if the world's best players are here," Ibanez confidently declared during a media briefing yesterday at the Holiday Inn Galleria.

"But for them to do that, we have to support them. If they are inspired, they'll be their best and it will be a good tournament," Ibanez added.

Amateurs and junior hotshots were mixed doubles runners-up last year in Thailand's Sudsri Pongsakorn and Sudsri Thosang-Sungkasni and were rewarded a round-trip ticket.

The Thai pair is not joining the event this year but fielded tougher replacements—top seeds Ujjana Nanoh and Nisa Wibunit and the No. 2 tandem of Wilai Martina and Phanly Limpobe.

Simon Rogard and Rachel Guerrero have also gained a top in the main draw and will meet Malaysia's Jack Choo Chong and Amelia steadily in the first round.

But for the rest of the veterans—men's and women's singles and doubles—Philipinos have to count their shots.

No. 1 ranked Lovemarg Pearce's Fi Hongyan and Malaysian Shew Chee Wang, the top three seeds in the women's singles, have eased illness and injury for their withdrawal.

International badminton rules require them to submit a valid proof of their withdrawal or they will face sanctions and fines.

Erlito Rivas of Japan, Hong Kong's Ng Wai Sip and Rami Tino Rasmussen took over the top three seedings while three additional slots were designated in the subsidiary.

Mehdi Ma, 2 Chun Hong of China and reigning Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat are likely to meet in the quarterfinal round of the upper half of the draw, if all must must draw.

Tournament top seed Chen, a two-time all England and China Open winner, defeated Hidayat for the first time in the quarterfinal round of the 2006 Hong Kong Open.

Hidayat is expected to avenge that defeat when he faces Chen in the second round of Year After from 1999 to 2005.

Any feeling of recovery from Monday's day off is likely to vanish quickly: Riders under the banner and Gallifet passes—access rights are among the hardest in the three-week race—in Tuesday's 139.5-kilometer (90.1-mile) stage from the hill-flanked city to Gap.

Tournament will be looking over his shoulder.

Among the likely contenders, Sastre is three minutes, 15 seconds back of Vinokourov, Rasmussen is 3:46 behind, Leipheimer trails by 3:55, and Mayo is at 5:20 off the pace. The Kazakh has been taking a mild analgesic to ease pain from stitches on both knees, Tour doctor Gerard Dine said.

Other hopefuls include Alejandro Valverde of Spain is fourth, 3:51 back. Cadel Evans of Australia trails by 3:53 behind and Discovery's Christophe Moreau is 5:06 behind the Cleve.

Many competitors expect the field to winnow to three tough stages in the Pyrenees starting Monday. AP

TOUR DE FRANCE

Rising stars eye Landis, Armstrong status

MT. D'HEEZ, FRANCE—CALL IT A RACE for recognition.

After Monday's rest day, the Tour de France heads into its last ride through the alps in the ninth stage Tuesday with the riders starting to take shape—and a new crop of contenders emerging.

Michael Rasmussen of Denmark will wear the yellow jersey after winning Sunday's eighth stage, and he's entertaining notions of taking it home with four mercurial Italians after news of the Tour's first riders that he won the last two years.

He said he "is entrapment and doping allegations denying the sport have debilitated many cyclists who dominated the race for the past decade.

Seven-time champion Lance Armstrong retired, Floyd Landis is fighting doping allegations from last year's Tour, 1997 winner Jan Ullrich retired amid doping allegations, and 2005 runner-up Ivan Basso was suspended for two years after admitting to "attempted doping."

Their former teammates now want to make names for themselves.

Two of Ullrich's former rapper riders, Achim team members Alexandre M. Andreatta and Andreas Klöden, are not up to top contenders, but both are moving upstairs from another in the Tempest fifth place. Carlos Sastre of Spain, once a workhorse for Basso, is third (2:30.9 under).

RASMUSSEN: Dreamers in sight. AFP

American Levi Leipheimer, a former teammate of Armstrong and current Discovery Channel leader, also is in there. He has said his team pulled victory so he was the Josephine Libert in 2006—the year after the missing ended his career. Swimming was the Daughter's sister.

"Maybe I don't be some young guy coming up like him, but it doesn't look like it," Leipheimer said at a news conference on the day off.

Armstrong, he said, was "a one in a billion person."

Among the youngsters who could be the face of cycling in 24-year-old Linus Gerdemann, a German who won shotput Ullrich. Gerdemann, a personal proponent of clean cycling, won Saturday's stage and wore the prized yellow shirt until Rasmussen took it Sunday.

Flaunting confidence, the Tour is still anybody's race.

Vincent Lavenu, who manages the AG2R team, said 20 to 12 riders would be considered podium contenders, not "for the first, second, and third places, I don't know."

It's a deep departure from the days winning era, when the historian seemed to have the race until its hand early in his second out of four titles from 1999 to 2005.

Any feeling of recovery from Monday's day off is likely to vanish quickly: Riders under the banner and Gallifet passes—access rights are among the hardest in the three-week race—in Tuesday's 139.5-kilometer (90.1-mile) stage from the hill-flanked city to Gap.

Tournament will be looking over his shoulder.

Among the likely contenders, Sastre is three minutes, 15 seconds back of Vinokourov, Rasmussen is 3:46 behind, Leipheimer trails by 3:55, and Mayo is at 5:20 off the pace. The Kazakh has been taking a mild analgesic to ease pain from stitches on both knees, Tour doctor Gerard Dine said.

Other hopefuls include Alejandro Valverde of Spain is fourth, 3:51 back. Cadel Evans of Australia trails by 3:53 behind and Discovery's Christophe Moreau is 5:06 behind the Cleve.

Many competitors expect the field to winnow to three tough stages in the Pyrenees starting Monday. AP

CKP168 rips Rusty Lopez as MBT starts

CKP168 STAMPED ITS CLASS ON RUSTY Lopez, 86-70, in the opening game of the 2007 MBT Disney Espiritu Cup at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong Saturday.

Gyspo Sheq Simbre, Chito Jaime, Derick Hubalde and Christian Cotonet each scored at least 11 points, leading CKP168 to an auspicious start in the total turnout.

Simpro Gian Sison's 20 points with Ramon Sinco, Ilio Manalo and Paolo Orbe each adding at least eight points for Rusty Lopez.

Wangs, De Guzman Memorial College and Ilocandia Superior also won their respective games on opening day, salads was ground by sportsman Danny Espiritu, MBT entertainment Mo Pamplona, RTU sports director Ing Concord and Black Chinese athletes in Senior.

Ramon Gonzales scraped for 36 points as Wangs cluttered PMD 93-79.

Anniversary derby slated

THE ELIMINATION ROUND OF THE PCC T1ST 100 anniversary 8-ball derby continues today at Pinoy City Lodge1 with non-stop 10-match-day schedule. A projected crowd of more than 5,000 spectators witnessed the opening round last Monday participated in by 96 cuemen. Twenty-three bets entered the finals after posting two wins each in the tournament presided by Supervisor Constance Sibal. The guaranteed prize of P1 million will be given to the champions regardless of the actual number of entries. 1st qualifiers all had six points and became another by their 2nd game today, July 19. The champion-bowler and qualifier will get P 350,000 and P50,000 respectively. For details, call 0917 531 8427 3000 and 8427 1740.

Weather may play crucial role in British Open

CARNOUSTIE, SCOTLAND—IT WAS cooked one minute, scrambled the next.

The rain and wind were as strong as Carnoustie on Monday morning that Tiger Woods and Ben Hamphig didn't even bother with umbrellas, and Woods took off his glove when he was feeling in his ring finger for the scorecard. Nick Faldo, at the side of the practice range trying to decide which sunglasses to wear.

"It was rain in a hurry," Chad Campbell said. "We saw it today."

Sweaters gave way to short sleeves.

Coffee cups cleared as fans queued up at the first tee to watch.

But nowhere to soften the first defense in links golf, and it's what makes the British Open so unique, along with being forced, a circuitous without notice, and sometimes leaving the good end of the draw can mean no trouble at all.

But it has been an anomaly of a holiday since Woods' 3rd for the calendar Grand Slam in 2000 ended in a blast of storm wind and chipping rain in Monifield that was too to so 61, still his highest score as a professional.

Even Phil Mickelson's Master will be here when the British Open begins on Thursday as for the rest of the week.

Woods, Hamphig, Charles Howell III, Brett Quigley and Robert Karlsson were among those rules left working to choose. Woods was on the first tee at 6 a.m., his typical starting time during practice rounds at the British Open.

Once he made the turn, he most have wondered why he bothered.

"One good thing about today is he's playing in a semi-pullet," swing coach Hank Haney said. "He knows a few shot all year.

The rain went with quiet and calm. The harder the wind blew, the more the rain blew sideways, the more fans they entered to hunt.

"Good thing we're playing today," said the Steve Williams said. "It could be worse tomorrow."

He not bothered practicing putts or chips around the greens because the grass was too soft. AP

Crack Asian bikers here for Supercross

MOTOCROSS RIDER TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT this weekend when the 2007 FIM FAM-Asia Pacific Supercross Championships kick off at the Fun Track Circuit in Tagaig City this weekend when the Philippines host Round 2 of the 2007 FIM FAM-Asia Pacific Supercross Championships.

The Asian series will culminate with a leg of the 2007 National Motocross Series.

The bulk of the delegation is expected to arrive today at the July 22 to 22 event, also known as the Mayor Tinga Cup Asian Supercross, sponsored by the City of Taguig, Philippine Sports Commission, Pilot Brand, Castrol, Bridgestone, Arbiter team members Alexandre M. Andreatta and Andreas Klöden, are not up to top contenders, but both are moving upstairs from another in the Tempest fifth place. Carlos Sastre of Spain, once a workhorse for Basso, is third (2:30.9 under).

American Levi Leipheimer, a former teammate of Armstrong and current Discovery Channel leader, also is in there. He has said his team pulled victory so he was the Josephine Libert in 2006—the year after the missing ended his career. Swimming was the Daughter's sister.

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Many competitors expect the field to winnow to three tough stages in the Pyrenees starting Monday. AP

LEE WOOD: Pinoy Genie of Club Intramuros shows his trophy after topping Group 1 in the season-fourth leg of the 2007 San Mig Coffee Super Five golf series at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. The Federation of Philippine Amateur Senior Golfers Inc., headed by its president Dusty Paredes is hoping the event for the country's golfing elders.

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Peso hits 7-year high at 45.25 to $1

String of IPOs luring dollar inflows

THE PESO WAS DRIVEN TO A FRESH SEVEN-YEAR high against the dollar yesterday by foreign investment inflows into stock offerings and the view that the central bank would tolerate currency appreciation.

The peso rose to 45.25 a dollar, its strongest since September 2000 and a rise of 0.2 percent in five sessions.

"The market was looking for the 45.40 level to hold yesterday," said a currency trader. "But I think there are still inflows from bullish sectors coming into the system. Several IPOs were placed for this month."

The biggest of those initial public offerings, Manila Power Corp., listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday. It raised P221 million and this company had recently said 70 percent of the IPO would be sold to international investors.

Broadcaster ABS-Network Inc. is set to raise P270 million through its IPO and property developer Vista Land and Lifescapes will soon be making the country's biggest secondary share issue of roughly P600 million.

Last week, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cut its main borrowing and lending rates by 150 to 175 basis points and removed a ceiling scheme for overnight deposits left with it.

While analysts differ on the overall monetary impact of these measures, they expect an improving fiscal and economic scenario to underpin the peso this year.

However, traders expect some intervention from the Bangko Sentral to temper the adverse effects of a strong peso on exporters. Reuters

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- **Meralco** urged to raise supply deal with Napocor /B7
- **IMF** to assess dev't's on BP's fiscal front /B8

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET EYED

No funds for Customs rewards

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS HAS there was no need to undergo the tedious process of requesting a budget from Congress for the granting of incentives to overperforming collectors.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Ric Umali said the Lateral Attribution Law requires automatic appropriation in the national budget to cover the rewards of overperforming collectors from the beginning of January (January and of Customs.

Under the provision requiring an automatic budget appropriation, Umali said there should be no delays in the disbursements of incentives to deserving collectors.

The clarification was made following delays in the distribution of the monetary rewards that should have been given to deserving employees of Customs as the agency surpassed its revenue collection target last year of P196 billion by more than P2 billion.

Under the Lateral Attribution Law, revenue collectors of the BIR and the BOC are entitled to monetary incentives if the agencies meet check half-year targets. The law likewise requires the imposition of penalties on under-performers, either by demotion, reassignment or dismissal.

The law says that the minimum incentives to be granted should be equivalent to 10 percent of the collection in excess of the target. If the excess collection is more than 30 percent of the goal, then the reward should be equivalent to 20 percent of the excess collection.

Only BOC employees were entitled to rewards because the BIR fell short of its P671.4-billion target for 2006.

Until now, Customs employees

Port operator buys into Pacifica

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucson
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT HOLDINGS

Strategic Alliance Development Corp. (Stradec) has sold 33.6 percent of its stake in its listed holding firm Pacifica Inc. to Midas Tech Capital Inc., a corporation headed by Manila port operator Richard Ramirez.

Rumors in the president of Harbour Center Port Terminal Inc., the operator of a non-containerized 30-hectare integrated port terminal in the Port of Manila, Pacifica said in a recent disclosure.

Stradec sold 1.044 billion IV shares in Pacifica Inc. by of Dec. 31, 2006. Pacifica's financial statements filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange showed that Stradec owns 66.08 percent of Pacifica.

Stradec, the controlling majority shareholder in Pacifica is a project development organization that has conceptualized, organized and financed conservation and information technology projects.

The 32-kilometer Metro Manila Skyway project, with a cost of $2.3 billion, was its pioneering infrastructure project.

In other projects include the 84-km Metro Manila Tollway, a consortium of Metro Manila Co-ordinated Stradec with a project cost of $684 million; the 32-km Super 1 of the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road which connects from the Tower to Ojas City in Batangas; and the 20-km Metro Manila-Batangas Clay.

Stradec is also involved in the $89-million computerization and modernization project for the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

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Herbcut Foods Co. Ltd. — Pickled & Seasoning Radish, Cucumber
Yoo Myung Seafood Inc. — Hot Peppered Fish Paste

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Avida to invest ₱7B in 16 condo projects

Ayala affordable housing unit bullish

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA LAND CORP. AYALA'S AFFORDABLE housing unit, is expanding P7 billion on the construction of new condominiums as it remains upbeat on the prospects of the property sector.

Ayala Land president Leo Meinhardt said in a briefing yesterday that the company is expanding its existing residential condominium projects.

As many as 16 towers will be put up over the next four years in San Lazaro, Manila; New Manila in Quezon City; Inasic in Muntinlupa and Cebu and Mactan (CEB).

The newest addition is Makati-styled Avida Towers Makati West at the corner of Malugay and Chino Streets with cost roughly P1 billion.

Avida Towers Makati West will consist of two towers on a total of 964 units.

The first tower will have 662 units.

At the soft launch of Avida Towers Makati West yesterday, Avida Land said in Avida Makati project will offer studio (25 square meters), one bedroom (approximately 32 sq. m.) and two-bedroom (54 sq. m.), garden and penthouse units costing from P5.3 to P8 million.

Each of the units offers high ceilings and large windows to allow for good natural lighting and ventilation.

Avida Land will offer Avida Towers Makati West to junior executives, professionals and young families.

Avida Land's projects address the needs of the affordable housing segment and includes overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) value as 3000 made up 16 percent of Avida sales across all residential product lines.

These include Inasan and Ion in 32 locations in Luzon.

As of the first half of the year, OFWs accounted for 48 percent of Avida's sales.

Nontraditional coco product exports up

By Ramon W. Domingo

EXPORT EARNINGS FROM nontraditional coconut products in the first six months rose 6.7 percent to $56.36 million from $52.81 million in the same period last year.

Data from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) showed that eight coconut-based products—oil, desiccated coconut, coconut cream, coconut milk, coconut water, activated carbon, and others—made it to the list of those with earnings above $100,000 for the month.

Topping the list was charcoal, coming in at $19,000 from shipments reaching 229 MT.

Major buyers of coconut charcoal were Pakistan, which took more than a third of total volume.

Glycerin, an ingredient in home-made and commercial beauty products, earned $566,368 from 671 MT, which was, however, an 8.3 percent slide from the volume sent out in May to June 2006.

Virgin coconut oil earned $917,500 with 1,131 MT, which was 38 times the volume sent in March last year.

Health-conscious Americans and Canadians gobbled up some 99 percent of the cargo.

Liquid coconut milk earned $173,775 from 121 MT sent out to the U.S., the Netherlands, Belgium, Japan and 3 dozen other countries.

Shrimpers or coconut spat posted $134,617 from shipment of 77 MT, which was 30.6 percent more than the year-ago volume.

The Japanese remained the top buyer of nata de coco, as during 40 percent of the total 480 MT, which was unfortunately 27 percent short of last year's March volume.

Chemrez posts ₱195-M profit

By Abigail L. Ho

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS CHEMREZ TECHnologies Inc. posted a net income of P195.2 million in the first half, soaring 292.6 percent from the same period last year.

In a disclosure yesterday to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said its consolidated gross revenues, which included sales of coco-biodiesel, resin, powder coatings and oleochemicals—surged 47.3 percent to P1.62 billion.

The company's net income already surpassed year-end earnings for the entire 2006, Chemrez said.

Although anticipated to account for bulk of the company's revenues for the year, biodiesel sales only contributed 25 percent to consolidated revenues in the first half, mainly because full deliveries to oil firms only started in late April.

The one percent mandated biodiesel blend was only implemented on May 6.

Chemrez has secured contracts to supply 4.2 million liters of coco-biodiesel to national oil firms, including refiner Philippine Shell Petroleum Corp., this month alone.

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Meralco urged to raise supply deal with Napocor

'Productive' bank lending up in May

By Dante L. Lucas

BANK LENDING CONTINUED to accelerate in May as the efforts of the central bank's scheme to encourage more restructured loans took hold over the summer.

In a statement, Bangko Sentral Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the outstanding loans of commercial, thrift and rural banks to "the productive sectors" of the economy grew by 6.7 percent in May higher than the 6.1 percent in April.

Excluding funds parked with the central bank's overnight facility, the total loans extended by the banking system stood at P1.779 trillion in May, up from P1.762 trillion in April and P1.650 trillion in May 2006.

"There has been a pick-up in lending since December 2006, after the strong upturn was put in place in November," he said.

Including the funds placed in the BSP's overnight borrowing facility, bank lending expanded at a slower rate of 5.6 percent year-on-year in May compared to the 12.1 percent in April.

By this measure, the end-May level stood at P1.951 trillion, slightly lower than the previous month's P1.046 trillion as banks moved their excess funds from the overnight window to the higher yielding special deposit account (SDA).

The deceleration in aggregate bank lending was led by the financial institutions, real estate and business services sector, which grew by only 1 percent year-on-year in May from a 25.5-percent growth in the previous month.

This was due mainly to the lower volume of banks' overnight placements with the BSP as there was a shift in placements to the SDAs following the introduction of new monetary measures in early May.

But of overnight placements, however, Tetangco said the growth of 13.1 percent, from the 9.8 percent in April.

The central bank said lending to the farm sector grew by 8.1 percent, up from the 2.1 percent growth in April.

Move seen to help make assets more attractive to buyers

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is urging Manila Electric Co. to draw more power from National Power Corp. to boost the quality of the transition supply contracts (TSCs) that will be attached to the power plants that will be auctioned off this year.

"I'm looking forward to Meralco increasing its contracted volumes from Napocor as this can assist the power agency and PSALM (Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.) in improving the quality of the supply contracts that will be attached to the assets," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told reporters.

Lotilla said the move would also shield Meralco's customers from the unfavorable spot-market.

Meralco presently gets around 25 percent of its supply requirements from the wholesale electricity spot market, 45-55 percent from its independent power producers, and 25-35 percent from Napocor.

RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, requires distribution utilities to get at least 10 percent of their supply requirements from the WESM.

Lotilla said it would be better for Meralco's customers if all of its supply needs would be covered by bilateral supply contracts, such as that with Napocor, as the would mean less exposure to price volatility at the spot market.

The '06 preview WESM requirement, he said, could not come to be to provide cover for "imbalances."

A source familiar with the matter said Meralco was in discussions with Napocor and the DOE for the possibility of transferring some of the contracted capacity from the WESM to the distribution utility's TSC with the same firm.

TRO issued vs PRCI directors

THE MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL Court issued on Monday an order stopping certain directors of Philippine Racing Club Inc. from transferring the ownership of the 36-hectare Sta. Ana race track in Makati to another company.

The temporary restraining order was issued in response to a complaint filed by a group of PRCI minority shareholders, who claimed that the planned swap of the race track property for shares in JTH Ontario Holding Inc. "lacked full disclosure" and was prejudicial to PRCI's primary business purpose.

In a statement, the minority shareholders said the defendants (PRCI directors) not only approved the exchange of the property for JTH shares but had scheduled in the executive committee the determination and approval of the terms and conditions of the exchange, notwithstanding the adverse consequences of such a move to the corporation.

They said the directors' move was not only irregular, but also prejudicial and inimical to the interests of the corporation.

The minority shareholders claimed the management neither invited nor furnished the board with any supporting documents regarding the acquisition of the property. Instead, the corporation's president merely sought the approval of a pro-forma resolution on the acquisition by JTH.

In its decision, the court said the right of PRCI to the Makati property must be respected and maintained. It also noted that the swap of the Makati property with shares of JTH will definitely strip off PRCI of its existing assets.

GSIS: The CTPL monopoly

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Hermenio C. Coronacion

BEFORE GEN-SAN WAS KNOCKED senseless by a speeding motorcycle, I was going to write about the Government Service Insurance System.

Secretary Jun Lozada, who is the registered owner of vehicle, at the Land Transportation Office (LTO). Every car is required under the Insurance Code to file a CTPL policy, embodied in a document called Certificate of Cover (COC). With the help of your agent or broker, you buy the COC from one of the more than 99 insurance firms.

But suppose Under Secretary Mendoza's order, you should buy the COC only from the GSIS.

The proposed monopoly has the entire mobile industry to an uproar. Since there are conventional insurance involved, the insurance companies, brokers and agents are gearing up for a gigantic battle at the Supreme Court. The industry can well afford to pit the most prestigious and expensive law firm (or is the law firm against the Solicitor General) should be quite a show to watch.

In the meantime, I shall discuss the controversy from the standpoint of the man in the middle – the vehicle owner.

I have a client with a 4-year old Toyota Avalon. Under I declared includes car damage coverage with theft, plus voluntary property damage third party liability, and, finally personal accident for six authorized passengers. This year's premium is P12,110 plus taxes of P1,296.45 for a total of P13,438.45.

Then, there is the separate CTPL policy where the annual premium is P448.75 and taxes of P53.85 for a total of P502.60.

Both policies are taken from the same insurance company. There are practical reasons for this. First, in both contracts, you deal only with the same party of

(Turn to page B8)

No funds for Customs . . .

(From page B1)

have yet to receive their rewards. The Department of Finance, head agency of the BOC, and the government failed to take into account the need to allot a budget for incentives when the 2007 national budget was enacted.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told the DOF would discuss with the Department of Budget and Management whether the two agencies could ask Congress to provide a supplemental budget to cover the incentives for 2006.

The other option is for the DOF and the DBM to include in the proposed 2008 national budget an allocation for the unpaid incentives for 2006 and the years, even that will be due to the 2007 revenue collection performance. Some noted that the economic managers were already preparing the proposed 2008 national budget.

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BUSINESS

IMF to assess developments on RP's fiscal front

Meet to focus on revenue collection, expenditures

By Michelle V Remo

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND officials will be arriving next week to assess the country's fiscal and macroeconomic environment.

According to a government source, IMF representatives will be meeting with the country's economic managers to discuss the government's expenditures and revenue collection efforts, as well as the economy's standing based on the success or failure in attaining growth targets.

Officials from the Department of Finance, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will be participating in talks with IMF representatives.

The source also said that this visit of the IMF was not part of the post-program monitoring (PPM) that used to cover the Philippines until recently. The country exited from the PPM last April after it posted significant fiscal improvement last year.

Under the PPM, the IMF conducts periodic review of a country's macroeconomic and fiscal environment, and then provides policy recommendations for reforms.

IMF members countries whose obligations to the foreign lender exceeds 100 percent of quota are subject to the PPM. It usually last a fewer amount of liabilities may still remain under the PPM if its economy is believed to be vulnerable to serious risks.

The Philippines could have graduated from the PPM as early as 2003, but November of last year, the Philippines' outstanding obligations to the IMF stood at only SDR 229.67 million, which was equivalent to 16.1 percent of the quota given to the country.

SDR stands for special drawing rights, the currency being used by the IMF.

However, both the Philippine government and the IMF agreed to keep the country under the PPM until it posted substantial gains in the fiscal sector.

Last year, the government was able to trim its budget deficit to only P64.5 billion from the previous year's P146.4 billion.

Authorities believed that the lower deficit figure could be reason enough for the country to exit from the PPM.

But the final picture for the first half of the year is not encouraging, as last year's. Preliminary report from the BOP showed that the deficit for the first half reached P67.7 billion, higher than the P33.3 billion official ending set for the six-month period.

The first half target was set with the goal of keeping the deficit for the entire year at only P65 billion. The breach in the first half's deficit limit was blamed on poor revenue collection.

Revenue authorities, however, said they would be stepping up efforts to shore up tax collection in the second half to recover from the tax shortfall.

The source said the IMF representatives are expected to inquire about the first half fiscal performance and the reason behind the collection shortfall.

The IMF normally provides policy recommendations to help the government administrators to improve performance. The government could then either heed or push the recommendations, the source said.

It may be recalled that it was the IMF that recommended the government to push through with proposals to raise the value-added tax rate and expand its coverage. The VAT reform law, which raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent and expanded the coverage of the tax, was considered to be the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda.

The implementation of the PPM has although criticized by consumer advocates, was said to have helped in substantially lessening the deficit last year.

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Insurance regulator approves sale of Berkley portfolio to Prudential

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION has approved the sale of the portfolio of Berkley International Life Insurance Co., Inc. to Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co.

The approval will pave the way for the transfer of Berkley's assets and liabilities to Prudential, which will now assume the claims of Berkley's policyholders.

The deal between the two insurance companies was formally inked last Thursday following an announcement by the Insurance Commission in May that it had accepted Berkley's decision to operate due to solvency problems.

The commission had said Berkley's solvency margin fell below the requirements after it contracted a P509-million loan from Union Bank and used P7 million worth of assets in the form of bonds, as collateral.

The use of bonds as collateral impaired Berkley's assets, placing its policyholders at a disadvantage, the Insurance Commission said.

The regulator has been tightening its watch on insurance firms, particularly over their compliance with solvency and capitalization requirements.

According to the Insurance Commission, it is necessary to protect current policyholders so that more people will be encouraged to buy insurance.

Dennis Cabanos, chief of licensing division at the Insurance Commission, said in an interview that the deal between the two firms will serve to protect holders of Berkley's insurance policies, now that former clients have become part of Prudential's clientele.

Cabanos said that Berkley's license as an insurance company lapsed on June 30. The company did not apply for a renewal.

Gregorio Moreno, president of Prudential, said the firm's move to buy Berkley's portfolio was part of a phase-expand business. Without disclosing the sale price, Moreno said the deal was worth the money as it increased Prudential's business by 30 percent.

For her, the transaction was formally announced that the portfolio transfer includes 200 individual insurance policies and about 80,000 cardholders of group life insurance, and P1.66 million worth of reserves, mostly in the form of government securities.

Moreno noted that Prudential expected to increase its premium collection by 10 percent this year, even last year, partly aided by its business expansion programs.

Danny Villanueva, former vice president of Berkley, said his group intended to stay in the insurance business, preparing to serve as Prudential's marketing arm. Market said Prudential was open to the proposal. *Michelle V Remo*

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Isuzu unveils 2007 edition 'global pickup'

TAMEDA said the 2007 D-Max is not only powerful but is also fuel-efficient, emits much cleaner emissions and definitely better looking.

Text and photo by Charles E. Rubio

IF SUBARU EMERGED AS a world-renowned vehicle brand because of its rally-winning Impreza or the Volkswagen for its iconic Beetle, then Isuzu could thank its D-Max for ably carrying its name in the highly competitive international pickup markets.

"The D-Max is one of Isuzu's most successful models and has captured the fancy of pickup lovers not only in Thailand but in many parts of the world since its launch five years ago," announced Eli Petch Isuzu (Thailand) sales director Pramela Chamsuwan who recently visited the country to personally introduce the 2007 edition of the pickup model, which is manufactured in her country.

Perhaps no other person could assess Isuzu D-Max's sales performance than Chamsuwan herself who shared that ever since Isuzu started its production of the pickup in 1974, its cumulative sales volume has already reached 1.24 million units.

10 consecutive years

"While the D-Max has been No. 1 for 10 consecutive years (since 1996) and set the record two years ago for registering the biggest annual sales volume of 163,153 units in Thailand, it was also exported, finding popularity in 90 countries worldwide," she said.

While D-Max is yet to achieve such a phenomenal record here, Isuzu Philippines Corp. president Seiji Takeda said the pickup has sold well in the Philippines and has been a favorite among Filipinos.

"In fact, the D-Max has been a People's Choice awardee for being the "Pickup of the Year" for three consecutive years beginning 2005," Takeda shared.

Innovate and improve

He also added that IPC is constantly finding ways to innovate and improve this global product.

"With the introduction of the 2007 D-Max (which is also sold in other Asian countries, Australia, Europe and the Middle East) we strongly believe that we have a strong pickup that has the potential to top the country's pickup market," Takeda said.

The 2007 D-Max is more powerful, a new type of engine: a 144-horsepower, 3.0-liter, common-rail direct-injection diesel engine with turbo intercooler.

More advanced

The CRDI is one of the most advanced diesel technologies in the world that combines both performance and fuel economy.

In fact this type of engine reduces gas to about 15 percent to 20 percent more environment-friendly than conventional diesel engines not to mention that they exhibit improved engine fuel efficiency, reduced noise and vibrations.

This engine could be found in all the variants of the 2007 D-Max (the top of the line 4x2 LS and LS) except the base model (LT), which has an 88-horsepower, 2.5-liter diesel-injection diesel engine.

"Not only is the 2007 D-Max accessible and durable as it has always been, I am proud to say it is now even more powerful and definitely better looking, thanks to its upgraded sweet, as well as interior amenities," Takeda said.

The LT is priced at P681,000, while the LS manual sells for P925,000. The LS manual and automatic have suggested prices of P1.015 million and P1.075 million, respectively.

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MY DRIFT

Andre Fabros

SEEING DOWN A STRETCH OF EDSA from its flyover to the Lore Vita, I found myself confounded by my church friend's request to make an clandestine stop. What he was asking me to do was crass, unsentimental at that very moment. Ahead of me on the Guadalupe traffic crawling along, around 130 kph and I was being asked to stop because he recognized me. Already the vehicle in front of us was by now beginning to slow. Dumbfounded, I had no choice but to slow down also.

We stopped as if we were at an intersection with a traffic light, our borrowed dash blue 03rd fourth or fifth from the front of this nature queue. In the middle of nothing if there had been an accident I did not see, my passenger got out of the car and let out a spiel.

Thinking that we had been involved in a vehicular accident and hit-up. The view I got when I glanced forward further perplexed me, for a couple of hundred meters in front of us, the six or eight lane highway was empty.

Completely through my opposite, my passenger strolled his smoke, got back in the cabin and began to belt up. Seconds later we were on our way and our drive continued as if nothing had happened. We got to our destination, quaint television, and over decades of fancy almost glamorous pickled herring, I finally got his explanation.

My first intelligent highway

I'd just driven on my first intelligent highway. Sensors measured traffic flow and predicted potential jams with the chance ebb and flow of vehicles. Earlier than allow traffic to build up excessively and block off highway exits, computers deliberately denied groups of vehicles that would otherwise just add to the mayhem and congestion.

If situations got really bad then entire sections of the highway would be asked to stop, the buildup allowed to clear and only then would cars be allowed to continue. At that moment believe jumped to the top of my really-need-places list and the last call hours before I stumbled into my first authoritarian, armed bunker.

Hmm. Hmm. Traffic information and management systems have amused me. From the simple, dedicated frequency traffic advisory radio stations in the remoter parts of the United States to the intricate and strangely hypnotic LED information billboards that dot the Tokyo ring roads, something just drives me to take a long, doe-eyed look at these systems.

Completely alive

The biggest reason for this interest is that each driving and traveling aids are completely alive to one as a Filipino. In a system where copied has at times been arranged blue-by traffic, you don't think that even the simplest real-time information systems would be available.

Yes, there are those drive time traffic updates on radio and they mark well enough. Once and time again they've helped in determining which route to avoid or take but the info one gets from the service isn't at all consistent or real time. For hand intelligence on what our road network looks like, one has to go to websites like mmda.gov.ph. Now relatively? How about calling someone actually to a helicopter circling the city during rush hour? For once it does not without my eyes literally neighborhood eye in the sky something a little too Orwellic will have to suffice.

Lack of infrastructure

Several systems have had tried to get around the lack of infrastructure, plugging in vehicles roll out of a traffic information system for drivers. There used to be an iconic point community based web sites where members would feed real time information about traffic they experienced or saw. With advances in private and mobile communications, one would not entirely could provide a step gap until government or big business decides that traffic information is something worth spending on.

A multibillion-dollar, intelligent road network is not what is being proposed here, though the idea does have its giddy pink. Even a simple system of signs could get the traffic flowing in the right direction. If we can get hundreds of "never be reached" signs out on our streets then why can't we place the odd decent sign system that changes on a hourly basis—one may stop that could clear the way for cars flowing Philippine-wide.

Debunking the most common myths about today's diesel engines

EVEREST

MENTION "DIESEL" AND BLACK smoke, unpleasant odor and come-and-get-me noise come to mind. Diesel engines are saddled with a lot of myths and misconceptions, with several recurring issues solely to unrefined past.

Some are the three, however, of harshness and clatter associated with the old diesel engines. According to the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, a trade association of car and light truck makers, modern diesel engines have resulted in clean diesel automobiles that offer greater fuel economy while delivering the performance and drivability of the conventional gasoline-fueled car. Instead of "clean diesel" through advanced engine and emission control technologies in line with other low-sulfur fuel.

The organization further states that compared to their gasoline counterparts, the emerging new generation of clean diesel vehicles will offer greater fuel economy while delivering better performance.

Myths and facts

However, some old perceptions about diesels still abound, especially in a country where the variety of vehicles can gasoline. The mistakes is for consumers to educate themselves on the myths and facts about today's diesel engines. Here are some:

Myth #1: Diesels are noisy especially at idle.

Fact #1: There used to be a lot of truth to the characteristic noisiness of diesel engines, but new ones are built with a features called "pilot injection," which virtually eliminates the clattering sound. Many of these diesels are so quiet that it takes an educated ear to recognize that the engine is a diesel when it goes by or is stopped at a stoplight.

Myth #2: Diesels are slow and sluggish.

Fact #2: Vehicles powered by new-breeds actually develop more torque at the lowest rev range than equivalent gasoline-powered engines. Responsive and powerful, they are capable of accelerating quickly, and they have high torque output for climbing grades or sustained high-speed operation.

Myth #3: You have to let a turbo-diesel engine idle for two minutes before you turn it off.

Fact #3: This is a current myth that has a basis of fact stemming from many years ago. In the early days of turbocharged cars, a two minute cool down allowed the turbochargers to slow down any remaining spinning inertia and the oil circulation has enabled the bearing. Today's turbo-diesels are a different story. There is really no reason to "cool down" a turbo-diesel these days, but you won't hurt anything by doing it either.

Myth #4: Diesels are dirty and stinky.

Fact #4: Diesel smoke is composed of soot from unburned or partially burned fuel. Thanks to modern computerized fuel control and management, coupled with ultra high-pressure fuel injection and fuel injectors, modern diesel emissions have been greatly reduced. As for dirty no smoke means no soot, and no soot means no dirt.

Myth #5: Diesel exhaust smells bad.

Fact #5: The smell associated with diesel engines in the past came from incomplete combustion, smoke and high sulfur content in diesel fuel. As mentioned above, modern electronic fuel management and combustion improved combustion and greatly reduced emissions. The introduction of ultra low sulphur diesel fuel will further serve to reduce these emissions.

Myth #6: Diesel fuel has less energy than gasoline.

Fact #6: Diesel fuel has around 11 percent more heat energy than gasoline. A liter of gasoline has almost 21.9 mega joules per liter, whereas a typical liter of diesel has about 35.6 mega joules per liter. Therefore more work can be done for each liter of diesel resulting in greater fuel efficiency.

Myth #7: Bio-fuels are synthetic oil in a diesel.

Fact #7: Synthetic oils can be, and are, used in many diesel engines. Every engine manufacturer has specific oil requirements, however, as long as the synthetic oil meets the American Petroleum Institute (API) rating recommended for that engine, it is acceptable for use. Many light duty diesel vehicles, including the Ranger, this means a minimum of API CD/CH-4 or CI-4mm. Do not think synthetic oils will void the warranty on a turbo-diesel, but again, if you're using the oil recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer (see your owner's manual), there will no problem.

Gradually changing

With steadily dirty image gradually changing, the local automotive industry is already transitioning to more advanced engine systems. While before, diesel is used to mainly power trucks, buses and construction equipment, it now sparks renewed interest in passenger vehicles.

The engine continues to find as many end-users' memories discover the new diesel engine's benefits. Greater power and performance are achieved by the fuel being injected directly into the combustion chamber with extremely high pressure and almost instantly high pressure. Such a common rail pump. The technology ensures the best possible amount of fuel and air in the cylinders, paving way to efficient combustion and high torque and excellent fuel economy while also reducing engine noise and vibration.

Today, Ford Group Philippines has two of the most powerful diesel fuel vehicles in its portfolio—the Ford Ranger and Ford Everest. To make the coming months more exciting for Filipino motorists, the company is bringing in its outstanding levels of refinement and driving enjoyment that are normally associated only with gasoline-fed engines.

Winning combination

With the new turbo-diesel common rail direct injection (TDCI) engines, Ford has achieved the winning combination of delivering substantially better performance while using markedly less fuel and producing fewer harmful emissions.

This new technology brings to life Ford's tagline, "Make Every Day Exciting," which expresses Ford's renewed commitment to deliver new vehicles that are innovative, stylish and fun to drive, giving their owners a sense of pride, as well as provide excellent value in terms of overall cost ownership.

RANGER

Motolite sponsors Philippine solar car project

MONTHLY, THE INDUSTRY LEADER IN AUtomotive battery products in the Philippines, a one of the sponsors of Sinag, the first-ever Filipino-made solar-powered car. Being developed by a team of scientists and engineers, students from the De La Salle University, Sinag will be the official Philippine entry in the Panasonic World Solar Challenge, the world's largest solar race, slated on Oct. 21-28 in Australia.

The one-seater Sinag will be powered by Philippine manufactured solar cells, which are graded among the most efficient in the world. Photovoltaic cells made of carbon fiber and Nomex (aramid fiber) will make the car as light as 160 kg, to allow it to achieve faster speeds. It will compete against entries from 28 other countries in a 3,021 kilometer race across the heartland continent—from Darwin in the Northern Territory to Adelaide, capital of South Australia.

Ultimate quest

Now on its 20th year, the World Solar Challenge is the ultimate quest to sustainable energy which aims to promote and celebrate advanced technical excellence, and draw attention to the imperatives of sustainable transport.

According to Fred Sison Fernandez of the ECJU mechanical engineering department and head of the technical team, the basic design for Sinag's monocoque shell will support solar cells on its upper surface. "We already have the materials and equipment and the ingenuity we think before the deadline race," Fernandez said.

Actively involved

Motolite's Ineres Esteves notes, "Motolite is actively involved in promoting the environment and has been a long-time supporter of many clean-up drives, recycling and tree-planting campaigns. We are honored to be part of the Sinag project, not only because it supports the search for clean, renewable sources of energy but also because it shows non-Filipino talent and ingenuity."

Motolite is produced by Century, an old Filipino conglomerate that is at par with the world's best in battery manufacturing, sales and distribution, machine building and engineering solutions, business enterprise solutions, and recycling and environmental protection.

Other Sinag sponsors include Ford Group Philippines, eFLOT Systems, Philippine Airlines, San Miguel Corp., Shell and SunPower.

VEHICLE LIGHTING SYSTEM

Primal Enterprises Corp., one of the country's leading distributor of car accessories and products, has recently introduced Xenonworx, its latest line of high-intensity discharge vehicle lighting system based on the insert gas, xenon. Launched during the Chevrolet Team Sport Show, Xenonworx could simulate daylight at night while consuming minimal amount of electricity and funding based on the most type of vehicle lighting systems. Based in Quezon City (Barrio corner Calamba streets), the company said Xenonworx lamps are water-resistant and is available in different color range (varying hues of yellow, blue and pink). All Xenonworx products have a 24-month warranty, the company added.

Latest auto trends at 1st Philippine Int'l Motor Show

THE 1ST PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL MOtor Show, organized by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), is all set to unveil its latest products, accessories, innovations and trends in the automotive on Aug. 9-12 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

Elizabeth R. Lee, president of Campi, said, "With our inaugural upcoming event, we will demonstrate the local industry's strength as an integral part of the growing local and regional automotive industry."

The public or large may expect a high-calibre show that will present the latest vehicle models available in the market today, a dynamic program of events and promotional activities, and the involvement of all the major players in the auto industry. The 1st Philippine International Motor Show is touted to be only to become a landmark event in Manila but, even more important, consolidate its status as the country's largest and most prestigious auto related indoor gathering.

Market needs

Confronting the challenges of the new era, regional auto manufacturers, assemblers and importers, along with the allied industries, will put their attention to the market needs of local consumers for exhibits that provide more value for money, the utmost in reliability and a closer maintenance cost per kilometer range.

Campi is also set to promote public awareness to the continued efforts of car manufacturers and assemblers in the country to draft and formulate measures to help reduce air pollution by supporting the Clean Air Act project of the government. This, according to Campi is being done through the installation of energy-efficient automobiles such as hybrid cars and clean burning diesel-powered vehicles.

Showcase

Aside from showcasing the latest product technologies, including a wide array of passenger cars, sport utility vehicles, concept cars, high-performance cars and commercial vehicles, the 1st Philippine International Motor Show will also attract visitors to the different conference programs and special interests like the exhibition of collectible automotives ability at least 25 years old (1982 and older), whose marques are represented in the show.

The inaugural motor show will also feature the 1st FIAT Automotive Design Competition, which is open to all industrial design and engineering students in the country set to mention technical and advocacy seminars, test drives, special auto financing rates for show visitors and a host of other activities. Another crowd draw, courtesy of participating automotive manufacturers and assemblers will be the display of concept or prototype vehicles loaded with the latest advancements in automotive and design technology.

The place to check out

According to lawyer Homer Mariano, Campi secretary general, the potential exhibitors who would want to see all the latest vehicle models—from cars to SUVs under one roof—the inaugural motoring event is the place to check out.

Prominent companies that are joining the show includes Columbian Autocar Corp. (Kia), Isuzuki Motors Automobiles Phils. Inc., Honda Cars Phils., Hyundai Asia Resources, Inter-Pacific Corp., Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Corp., Nissan Motor Phils. Inc., PGA Cars (Porsche and Audi), Scandinavian Motors Corp. (Subaru), Suzuki Motor Phils., Toyota Motor Phils. Corp. and Universal Motors Corp. (Nissan light commercial vehicles).

Safer affordable SUVs

THE 2.0 VX Mitsubishi Outlander GLS Sport

PEER MITSUBISHI MOTORS Philippines Inc. limited (from 2005' spun) safety solution last April, they seemingly or unwittingly set a new safety trend for SUVs sold in the Philippines. All three—the new Pajero, Endeavor and Outlander—not only have antilock braking systems (ABS) with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) on 4-wheel disc brakes, they each have six airbags and stability control as standard equipment.

Sure, you might say, any SUV costing over P2.5 million like the Pajero should have six airbags and stability control. But the 4WD V6 Outlander GLS Sport costs less than two million—P1.888 million, to be exact—yet it has two third-stage beam with airbags, side and curtain airbags plus Active Stability Control and ABS with EBD on the brakes front and rear.

Not high-end

I'm not talking here about high-end SUVs like the BMW X5 and X3 Sport Activity Vehicles that have eight airbags and dynamic stability Control and traction, at least. P3.350 million to P5.25 million each. But about the Mercedes-Benz ML 350 Sport (P3.750 mil-lion), Volvo XC90 (at least P3.990 million) or Infiniti Excel Expedition (P3.999 million), all of which have six airbags and some kind of stability/traction control as standard equipment.

I'm talking about affordable SUVs. Assuming that SUVs costing from P1.6-million to P1.6 million are considered affordable these days in a country with a booming stock market and low pass-on dollar exchange rate, Mitsubishi Motors has challenged competitors with the redesigned safety-packed 2007 Outlander Sport.

For example, Mitsubishi's compact SUV costs P97,000 less than the 4x4 Toyota RAV4 (P1.075 million), which also has six airbags, 4-wheel disc brakes and ABS with EBD but no stability control. While the Outlander Sport costs P25,000 more than the 4x4 common rail diesel 2.0-liter Toyota Revlaine (P1.065 million), the latter has only two airbags, two-line brakes (the rear brakes are drums) and no stability or traction control.

Best Compact SUV

The P1.65 million Subaru Forester 2.5 ST all-wheel-drive, which won the Best Compact SUV of the Year title at the last Car of the Year Awards last March, has four airbags, ABS with EBD on 4-wheel disc brakes and a Vehicle Dynamics Control System.

The P1.576-million 2.7-liter V6 2007 Suzuki Grand Vitara quality for the safer affordable SUV category since it has six airbags, antilock-only brakes (engaged 100% ABS with EBD still) and ventilated disc brakes—but unfortunately drum brakes at the rear.

4 airbags

Meanwhile, the 2007 2.4 Real Time 4WD Honda CR-V, which at P1.498 million costs P420,000 less than the first RAV4, has four airbags and VSA (vehicle stability assist) plus brake assist aside from 4-wheel disc brakes and ABS with EBD.

Also with four airbags (dual front and two side curtain) is the P1.580 million 2007 4x4 Ford Escape XLT 2.3 that comes standard along with ABS with EBD. But, like the Forester, the Escape has drum brakes at the rear and no stability control. The Escape proved its 2 Forester SLS has only two airbags.

ON THE ROAD

Alex Servilla-Mendezon

No stability control

The P1.388 million 2007 Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.3 XLT 4x4 has 4-wheel disc brakes, ABS with EBD and brake assist, but also only two airbags and no stability control. The P1.347 million 4x4 Mazda Tribute, the Escape's cousin, is similarly equipped.

Unlike the Nissan X-Trail, whether it be the 2.5-liter 4WD (P1.288 million) or the manual transmission (MT) 2.0 liter 4x2 variant (P1.168 million). And the 3.0-liter diesel Sorento Advance which comes in cost from P1.475 million to P1.658 million.

Except for the Hyundai Terracan, the thirteen SUVs parent company is the safety departmental. The CRDI (common rail-direct injection) diesel variants of the Hyundai Tucson (P1.078 million for the 4x2 and P1.198 million for the 4x4 have Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS and EBD, but only one airbag. The next gasoline MT (P968K) has no ESC and drum brakes at the rear.

SANTA FE, both the 2.2 liter CRDI gasoline (P1.588M) and the 2.3 CRDI (P1.328M) variants of the Hyundai Santa Fe have ESC and ABS with EBD, but the diesel unit has only one airbag compared to the gasoline's six.

The 3.8-liter V6 CRDI Sera Gran saves the day for Hyundai with six airbags, ESC and 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS and EBD. However, it runs over two million bucks so it does not qualify as affordable.

The 2.5-liter CRDi Kia Sorento (P1.498M for the EX CRDi AT) has only two airbags and ABS but no stability control. Worse still, the P968K 2.0-liter Kia Sportage has no airbag and no stability control although it has 4-wheel disc brakes and ABS.

Summing up, the safer affordable 2007 SUVs are the Mitsubishi Outlander V6 GLS Sport, the 2.5 Subaru Forester ST, the 2.7 V6 Suzuki Grand Vitara and the 2.4 Honda CR-V 4WD.

TODAY'S RUMOR STICKER: Well-behaved women rarely make history

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PNP AWARDS OF PETRON FLEET CARD

Petron's VP for Marketing Jose R. Campos (right) describes the unique benefits and special advantages of the Petron Fleet Card as PNP Director General Oscar Calderon looks on during ceremonies marking the first use of the Petron Fleet Card by the PNP recently in Petron Bel-Air Select Station in Makati City. The move is in line with the PNP's ongoing 'fraudproofing' program aimed at improving its administrative and operational processes. The Petron Fleet Card, the first of its kind to use microchip technology, will enable the PNP to efficiently manage its fleet of vehicles since the card can be programmed to define product and purchase limits, making it easier to budget and monitor fuel expenses. It is accepted in more than 500 Petron stations nationwide.

New Vios makes it easier to drive around the city

REDESIGNED with new enhancements, the City has upgraded features.

THE ALL-NEW Vios underwent full-model change unlike the City that has minor changes.

By Tess R. Salazar

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT that the Toyota Vios in your hands was "everything" (remember the ads? John Romney Spears spouting "Vios... It's everything"), there really engineers in Toyota decided that it wasn't really everything just yet.

So they've just come up with a new Vios. What do we call it, now? "It's everything-er"? Oh well, as we said for the new Vios-es-friends we in the Philippines market by end-August, and before Vios branches make an iPhone to beckon to the reservation line to Toyota dealerships, here's a "run of the tape" look at the new Vios – a quick peek, even before you essentially insert that key into the ignition.

The new Vios has a longer wheelbase than the current Vios and the Honda City, sender inside both up front and even more the current Vios and the City, and with a cabin now 100 mm longer than the current model (though the overall length is extended only by 15 mm), the new Vios is even longer than the Altis in size-y-category shoes.

Features

The new Vios features a 9-shaped fins in the front end. This extends from the hood to the grille and then to the bumper providing a broken, bolder design upfront.

The rear combination lamps' round shapes serves a 3-dimensional volume, seen any end. The character lines of the hood and the side run parallel to each other to create dynamism—as usual for a sedan of this class.

And with bigger dimensions for wide door opening, particularly in the front seat, the new Vios and its hybrid-done specs make it supposedly a breeze to drive.

The driver's ergonomic and more has a lever-type height adjuster, unlike that of the current Vios and the City both of which have knob-type adjusters. The new Vios has the gear-type shift lever, and an electronically powered steering wheel, which the fastest steered is ideal for both city and long-distance driving.

After take note of the new Vios' integrated turn signal lamps, electronic retractable outside rear-view mirrors, larger surface mirrors, pinned type antenna, and rear reflectors.

The longer interior surfaces help reduce blind spots and identify obstacles during parking and lane changing.

What customers really want

Toyota Motor Corp. chief engineer Tomiyuki Kawasaki stressed that his team took into consideration the key phrase "Global Small Stylish Sedan" in the development of the all-new Vios. "We looked into the smallest details to give customers what they really want."

Kawasaki-san said the Vios' new bumper integrated front grille, integrated side turn signal lamps and rear bumper mounted reflectors provide "a more modern and stylish look."

He added that the longer cabin legroom, the passenger-feel and front and rear headroom "guarantee a relaxed drive and ride."

The safety highlights are the dual front airbags, ABS (antilock brake system), EBD (electronic brake distribution) and Brake Assist. For model spe-

VIOS' upriver-runners, auto sound reading stereo and metallic rotatile controls, steering with stereo command

cific features, the new Vios comes with dual front SRS airbags for the S Grade. There's also the pedestrian injury reduction technology with impact absorbing areas around the fender, cowl panel and hood.

For grades G and E, ABS is integrated in the vehicle-coupled with traction assist Brake Force Distribution (EBD) and brake assist (BA).

Honda City latest update

Meanwhile, chief competitor City comes with newly designed alloy wheels for both the 1.5-liter and 1.3-liter variants. The place of the 15-inch spoke wheel design is to give the 1.3-liter City a stronger and more daring stance while the aim for the 1.5-liter variant is to exude a refined attitude with its 16-inch 6-spoke wheel design. The silver ring accent of the taillights and body-colored mud guards further add to the City's chase styling.

Enhancements inside the City: The 1.5-liter variant comes with an iPod ready audio system. The rear cabin is also enhanced with rear seat armrest and rear seat center box.

The new City now comes with the immobilizer. This feature prevents unauthorized use of the vehicle by enabling only the original keys to ovrride the engine.

T-variants

The five Vios models are 1.5E leather automatic transmission, 1.5G automatic and manual transmission, the 1.3E manual transmission and the 1.3J manual transmission. It comes in seven shades—super white, cashmere silver metallic, red mica metallic, beige metallic, granite blue metallic, black and silver metallic.

The new Vios will be assembled in the Philippines. It's new model refinery endeavor? Well, that's still under wraps. But you can count Brittany out of this.

THE NEW seat structure—designed to reduce body strain—aims to lessen fatigue during long drives.

Nissan Motors Phils. reveals fully loaded promo winners

JUNE 26 MARKED THE CULMINATION of the highly successful Nissan Fully Loaded promo. Nissan Motors Philippines Inc. (MPhil) off a total of 1,103 Nissan Pathfinders Darvalde, 36 Navi notebook computers and 10 Nissan Sentra 1.3 GX to lucky customers who have purchased their Nissan from Feb. 15 to May 31.

Present during the raffle draw were MMPI executives and officers from the Nissan Dealerships in Metro Manila. Invited UPI representatives were also present to supervise the grand draw and media friends from the country's top motoring shows covered the momentous event.

"We are extremely happy with the success of the Nissan Fully Loaded promo. It speaks well of the continuous loyalty to the Nissan brand here in the country," says NMPI president Akira Chen. "The promo was NMPI's way of expressing gratitude to our valued Nissan customers," Chen adds.

Winners

The 10 lucky winners of Nissan Sentra 1.3 GX were lawyer Cornelio Asuncion, Ms. Socorro I. Clemeno and Myrna Amores Jr. from Mastiveda Development Corp., Baldomero Bien Dealena from Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue, Tommy Mendez from Nissan Shaw-Cainta Mandaluyong, Jose Ma. Feorian and Limbrenus Guillermo of Nissan Olongapo Subang, Eric Sia, Ms. Debie Malapaynon and Ms. Monnelie Santos of Nissan North Edsa.

The winners of the 10 Navi notebook computers were Sandra Rabinas of Mastiveda Development Corp., Virginia Bobadilla, Ms. Wenona Cebu Dealership Inc., Ms. Teresa Gamore of Nissan Iloilo, Rico Borgos and Argent Dulce of Nissan Manila Inc., Leonier Mariano and William C. Abraham of Nissan South-woods, Cornelia Mijeles of Nissan Westgate Alabang, Emmanuel Cuevas of Nissan United Nations Avenue and Garry M. Balisacan of Nissan North Edsa.

The winners of the 118 Sony PlayStation are included in the complete list of winners. Please log on to www.nissan.com.ph for the complete list. All winners will be notified by registered mail.

The Nissan Fully Loaded promo is just one of the many surprises MMPI has lined up for this year. As the excitement for the upcoming Compl Motorshow this August intensifies, the Philippine market will be given a chance to peek into what MMPI has in store for consumers...

2bU "To be you"

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Bunal Formoso

Only'd Correspondent Pam Pastor

City Secrets *part one*

This week, we asked people to spill the beans about their undiscovered hangouts, shopping haunts, favorite food stops and interesting characters. We have a 24-hour bar, a closet you'd want to raid, a Thai resto that people have fallen in love with, cupcake goodness and Tado's special store.

And we're only getting started. E-mail your own secret place in the city to Ls_2bu@inquirer.

com.ph. Because some secrets are too good not to be shared.

A CUPCAKE bouquet of flowers

Royal treats

Yumi Castrillo's Yummy Piece of Cake cupcakes are distinguished by their unusual flavors

Text by Bianca Cuenca
2bU Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

EVER SINCE THE CUPCAKE craze caught on in the Philippines last year, dozens of shops have been hopping on the baking bandwagon.

Without a doubt, Sonja's Cupcakes in Serendra is still the cupcake place to beat in terms of presentation and popularity, but there are some bakers who consistently challenge Sonja for her crown (literally).

One of them is Yumi Castrillo, the hero behind Yummy Piece of Cake. A lawyer by day and a baker by night, Castrillo initially got to try her cupcake business when she started having to take a break from the pressures of studying law. During especially hectic days, she would take refuge in the kitchen, turning out cakes, brownies and cookies and sending them to her husband's officemates. Eventually, the orders started coming in, and she decided to become a cupcake.

"I started experimenting with cupcakes simply because they were easier, faster and so much cuter," said Castrillo. "Cupcakes are so versatile. They're perfect for casual gatherings or as a snack, or dressed up and piled up with frosting. The best thing about them is, you can eat them on the go!"

However, more than presentation, Yummy Piece of Cake cupcakes are distinguished by their unusual flavors. Castrillo experimented with different ingredients to come up with unusual combinations. Which some of these special favorites is besides is the Chocolate Trifle—chocolate cake topped with chocolate buttercream, it is Castrillo's now notorious that have been coming back for more.

The Princess Di, a blue cheese and fresh

Royal treats

TDS can customize the decor of the cakes.

YUMS Chocolate Truffle cupcake is a bestseller.

From page C1

pear cupcake smeared with a dollop of tangy lemon buttercream, is a favorite with regulars.

Cute fils evidently likes her royalty, as an affair frequent order is the Marie Antoinette, a luxurious strawberry and champagne cupcake crowned with dark chocolate buttercream – fit for a queen, it'sreallies.

Other specialty cupcakes include the Swiss Miss (Hershey's cupcakes topped with white chocolate icing in honor of the Swiss Miss), the Mama Mia (fresh apple cake dotted with parmesan cheese and rolled with lemon buttercream), and the Scarlett O'Hara (a fruity chocolate red velvet cake iced with white chocolate buttercream).

In the mood for something more classic? Try our Orange You Glad, a bite-of orange cake and dark chocolate Mexicana cream; Black Russian, vanilla cake and Hershey's icing, Crimson Grotique, banana cake with dark chocolate; and The Elvis, banana cake with peanut butter frosting and chocolate syrup.

For children's parties, Castrillo recommends The Barbie, a pale vanilla cake decked out in pink strawberry buttercream.

"I'm not afraid to come up with unusual flavors," Castrillo stated. "I get inspired by trips to restaurants, poring through cookbooks, and place-mat and menu. Many people are intrigued by the new flavors and respond wonderfully to them."

Another reason her clients keep coming back for more is that her cupcakes aren't priced at skyrocketing rates. The special cupcakes, such as the Princess Di and Marie Antoinette, are P35 each, while the regular ones range from P20-25 each, making her a popular choice for parties and wedding receptions.

While her cupcakes are only by order for the meantime, Castrillo said she has no problem with doing the work herself.

"As a home baker, I really just want to enjoy baking and coming up with new flavors. I intend to stay home-based in order to ensure the quality and the personal touch I give to each batch. I prefer to focus on catering to special parties and weddings, since I can customize the cupcakes into different themes. And of course, I intend to keep the prices reasonable."

She added: "Since I love making cupcakes, it isn't difficult to set aside time to make orders and bake. In fact, I look forward to it at the end of the day after work."

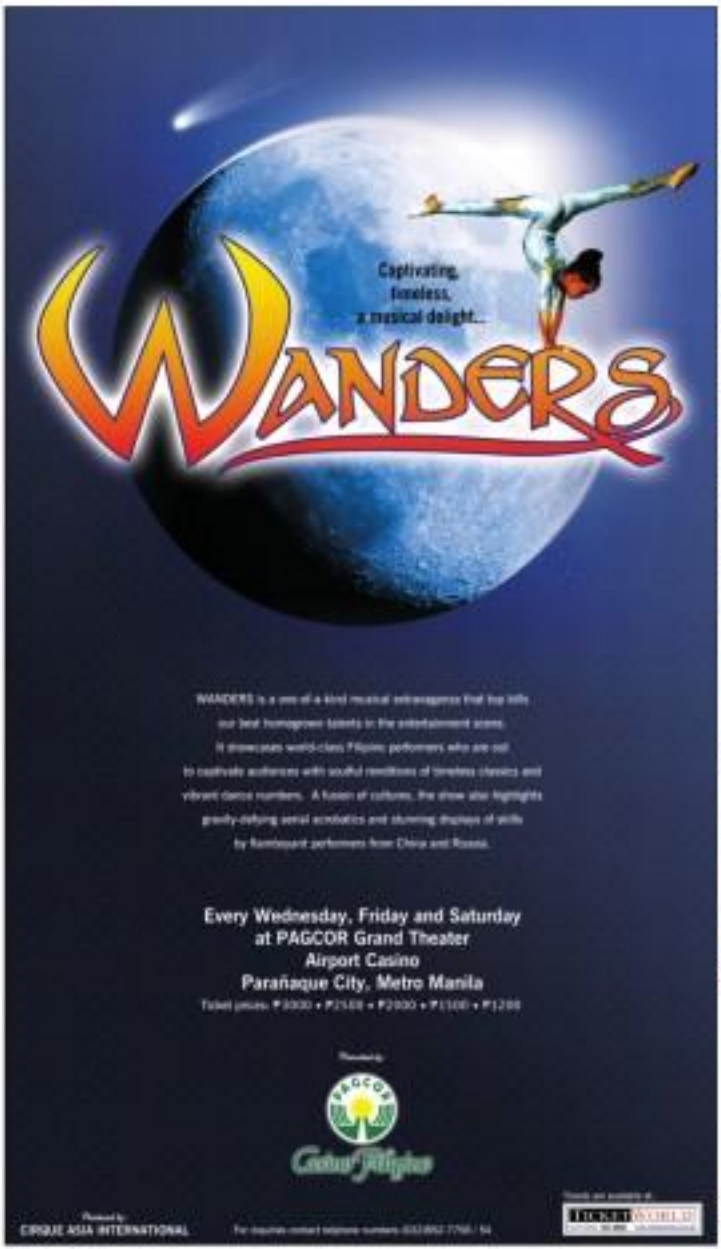
Call ONYT MORRIT at e-mail: bajaj@pmail.com

E-mail the author at lifestyle@philstar.com

TRY OUT unusual combinations such as blue cheese and pear, strawberries and champagne, and banana and peanut butter

MORE adult flavors, such as cappuccino, Bailey's and orange Valencia cheese ber be the cupcakes.

MADE-TO-ORDER cupcake tower



NICE. EDIBLE style

Thai food, authentic and affordable

Thai thick and flavorful Tom Yum soup is a must-try

By Zoe Castro
2007 Correspondent

IF YOU'RE UP FOR SOME AFFORDable Thai cuisine, then we'll let you in on one of Manila's best kept secrets: SOMS Noodle House. It serves a variety of authentic Thai dishes with prices ranging from P80-P140.

A definite must-try is the Tom Yum soup which is thick and flavorful. Those allergic to shrimp can finally partake of this delicious Thai dish, since the soup comes in beef, pork or chicken variants. You can also opt for mild, medium or spicy flavors.

Other favorites are the rice toppings like Bagoong Rice and Beef Rice, Chicken Noodle soup, and the curry dishes (which come in yellow, red or green).

To shake your thirst, try the SOMS signature milk tea. This sweet drink comes in small cups for those...also perfect for take-out orders.

SOMS has two branches now, one in Ayala and the other in Alger St. behind Rockwell. The latter branch is small and no frills, and you'll find yourself literally eating on the street under some umbrellas.

It is best to come in small groups and during non-peak hours. Since this is a favorite destination of Makati yuppies and Ateneo graduate students, the place is always packed and you may have to wait a while for seats and for your orders to be served.

SOMS is located at 5921 A. Alger St. Poblacion, Makati. Near Grilla, Malaysia Avenue. A much bigger branch can be found near St. Andrews Church, 17th St. Garcia St. corner Bilagera St. Bgy. Wawawerde, Makati City.

TOM Yum soup

MILK tea

It's hot, flavorful and savory. You'll have a mess eating it, and yet you'll finish it off with a happy smile and a happy belly

MASTER Burger

MANGO Salad

Not your ordinary burger

By Zoe Castro
2007 Correspondent

TUCKED INSIDE CRISSCross Mall in Makati is Manila's first Japanese Burger. One bite into this yummy treat and you'll understand why this is no ordinary bread-and-beef combination.

Staying with the town's special treat theme, Sango's signature Master Cheeseburger (P90) has all the trappings of comfort food fare. It's hot, flavorful and savory. You'll have a mess eating it, and yet you'll finish it off with a happy smile and a happy belly.

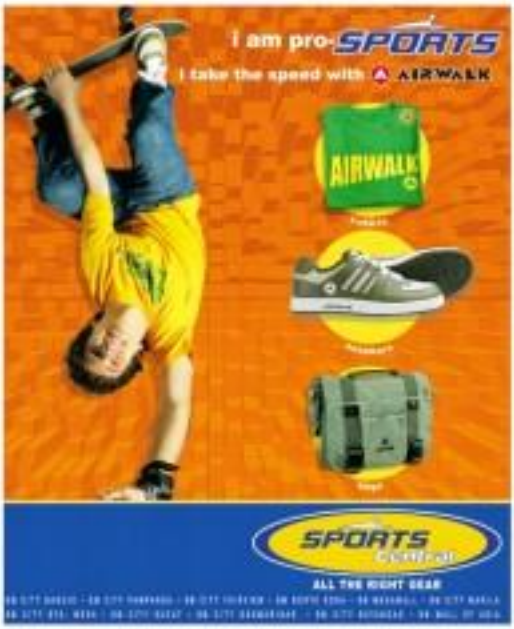
Other must-tries are the grilled salad, Yoshinoki Burger, deep fried tofu and Sango's yummy shakes.

Orders come with cute little Origami creatures handmade by the friendly Sango staff.

If you can't head to the store any time soon, don't fret because it actually delivers. Those who need to thrash others can order Sango for GT bird or other similar grub.

Sango is located at Crossover Mall, Ayala cor. Makati Ave. corner Legaspi Village, Makati. Beside Makati Cinema Square. Call 830-4095.

E-mail the author at zoecruhl@gmail.com



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More secrets spilled

"My secret hangout is Piko in Ortigas Home Depot. It has yummy brewed beer in caramel and banana flavors."
—Zari Chan, group product manager for Lancome

"My secret hangout is Macky's in Mankina—the best tokwa't baboy and gotcha in town!"
—Tina Silva-Navarro, designer/entrepreneur, Ilaya

"This restaurant at the top of DLSU-Benilde's Angelo King building. The view is spectacular."—Rosa Villanueva, lawyer

"After a very stressful week, I always make sure I get a good body massage to relax and maintain good blood circulation. I go to "Massage King" in SM Sta. Mesa. You can get the luxury of a good body massage and foot spa without having to pay too much. The members of the staff are nice and kind."
—EJ Mallorca, Shu Uemura

"May nagsabi na ba ng Som's? It serves authentic Thai food that's very affordable. I swear, you haven't tasted anything like this before. It has two branches in Makati—Rockwell and Repose. Its specialties include red chicken curry, green tofu curry, tom yum soup, pad thai, bagoong rice. Heck... try everything!"
—Jugo Juguetz

"My best-kept secret: Nails At Home's mani and pedi and foot spa services. There's nothing like being pampered in the comfort of your own bedroom. The number is 7264877."
—Amina Arenas-Munan

"LimTADO is Mankina's witty retort to Rockwell's Archaeology: Independent Lifestyles space. Trip happy place for the T-shirt, flip flops set. It's in N. Roxas St., Kalumpang, Mankina, open till 11 p.m. Comedian Tado Jimenez runs it with his girlfriend. Tado designs the shirts, they alter your okay lost, that don't fit, etc. Bags and quirky accessories are available, too."—Gang Badoy, Rock Ed

"My best-kept secret is Diet A Massage. One hour massage for just P275. An attendant comes wearing a uniform. I do that every Sunday. The number is 7239582. Also, the Little Store on the Hill in San Juan and Gilmore. For P250 you have nice, fresh Chinese lumpia, crab rice and omelettes."
—Annie Roger

"For gourmet comfort food and great date ambiance, Apartment 1B in Salcedo Village."—Jong Zulueta, Chief Makeup Artist, Shu Uemura

"Optimal Nail Salon in Legaspi St. It may look rinky-dink but it's tops in price and friendly service."
—Zara Ronquillo

"There's this cozy restaurant in president's avenue called Amelia's that serves the best chicken croquettes—crunchy on the outside, soft inside. One bite will make your tastebuds rejoice! Also, a tiny resto in San Juan called Little Store on the Hill has super yummy fresh lumpia the size of a really fat baby's thigh. For dessert, the chocolate cake of Costa Brava is to die for, same with Polly's chocolate cake at the Shell station in Magallanes. A friend of mine, Ryan Saavedra, says his best sweetest secret are the crinkles from Julie's Bakeshop in Evangelista, Makati. It is chewy and soft and extremely cheap!"
—Alessi Villarosa

"I don't go to coffee shops anymore for wifi with my laptop. Anytime I want, I can get online with my MacBook Pro, virtually anywhere for just P10. Smart has this rate of P10/30 minutes unlimited kb for GPRS and 3G. I just hook up my laptop and 3G phone via Bluetooth and voila. I'm online! It's not as well publicized as their 100 plans or unlimited texting promos. But this is a steal! No more coughing up of 100 for one measly hour at a coffee shop. This is the new wifi ng lungsod."
—TJ Manotoc

LIFESTYLE

Sandwiched between a P12 burger joint and a P40 barber shop, UmiTado offers fashion finds, quirky picks and a seven-song CD that won't put a dent in your pocket

The gospel of **Tado's** T-shirts

By Pan Pazon

WHEN ASKED TO SPELL her city secret, Rockell's Gang Badoy told us about UmiTado. "UmiTado is Marikina's entry entry to Rockwell's Archaeology: Independent Lifestyles space. It's a happy place for the T-shirt, flip-flops set.

Comedian Tado Jimenez runs it with his wife. Tado designs the shirts. They also stock loot that don't fit, etc. Bags and quirky accessories are available too," she added.

Honestly like Gang, we felt like spreading the gospel of Tado's shirts too.

It's not a commonly known fact but Tado has been printing shirts for some time now. "Madalas akong mag-commute sa ilang shops, at mga kaibigan ko. Boo-uusap ko, magsesuhestiyon ako ng graphics ako ng-printing tinatshirt."

And the best part? He only prints a limited number of shirts for every design—so each one is actually collectible.

His Nancy Aquino squad shirt is one of his more popular designs. "Kinuli namandu yun kasi kapag binabanggit ng tao. 'Di ba tatak ni Nancy 'Hindi Ako Ang Ako'? Nung ahm, 'Hug Ako

THE GOSPEL: D2

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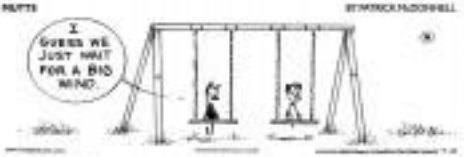
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN BY DOUG ABREN

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY NIK JUNIOR

NUTS BY PATRICK HUDDENBELL



LOVEWHOTS BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

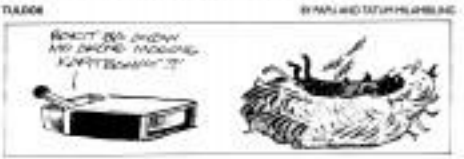
ATOMIC ANEW WOODY BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PIRRUNG

BIKO MACHINE BY TRIXIE ABREN

HUMANOIDS BY JONATTE TEJO

TULOOK BY PAPA AND TATAY HILARIBILANE



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		4	5	8	3	6		
	5						2	
7		8	4		2	9		5
6			1		5			7
3								9
	1		6		9		5	
	3			9			4	
		1				3		
			3	6	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	7	3	5	1	8	4	6
4	5	3	8	6	9	2	7	1
1	6	8	2	7	4	5	9	3
8	1	4	9	6	7	3	2	5
5	7	9	1	2	3	4	6	8
2	3	6	5	4	8	9	1	7
3	8	1	7	9	2	6	5	4
7	9	5	4	3	6	1	8	2
6	4	2	6	1	5	7	3	9

SOME PIECES from Irene Pineda's Conchi Lola line

MORE PIECES to rock at Irene's Closet's new space at Rockwell Bridgeway Wing

SHOES by Pineda

Get ready to raid this Closet

Reworked fashion pieces, kung-fu shoes, handmade accessories—raiding Irene's Closet is like raiding your best friend's

By Patt Pilar
Photos by Alanah Torralba

IRENE'S CLOSET IS ONE species every fashion-loving Pinay knows always.

Not several years now, girls have been raiding her closet, from the one she first put up in her house in Nida Village and the little store she opened in the same village in her first space in Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

Her choice vintage finds have become great additions to the wardrobes of many Filipinistas, and the whimsical accessories she designs and makes with her own hands have been featured prominently in the pages of the country's glossies.

Irene's creative juices just keep flowing. Shunning an open-air shopping, she opened shop to explore her passion for fashion and all things pretty in her new space at Rockwell's Bridgeway wing, which was launched just last month.

"I am happy and proudly ecstatic to be part of a bunch of young independent Filipino designers and retailers personally handpicked by Rockwell Power Plant," says Irene Pineda, proprietor.

And she has entered her spot there with her creations—from summer outfits and crocheted necklaces that many have copied, to her one-of-a-kind heels and hand-purses.

Irene recently introduced Conchi Lola, her new line of clothes.

LOVE-inspired Kung Fu shoes for Sharon Jacile of I Love You Store

SHOES inspired by sunny days, by Jacile

ACCESSORIES overload

TREASURE boxes of fashion finds

THE I LOVE YOU store corner

"The sole purpose of Conchi Lola is to entertain, to warm and reminisce pre-loved items. Each piece is uniquely restored, designed and handcrafted," she explains.

The clothes do look and feel more like works of art...and the brand still fits what Irene's Closet originally set out to do—to offer wardrobe additions to people who love "things that are not store-produced or mass-marketed."

Irene believes that's where the attraction is.

Irene also continues to carry her accessories line...her charm bracelets are adorable. She also collaborated with I Love You Store and produced good looking hi-shoes inspired by the word "no" and expressions. Her hole duo has partnership with I Love You Store in a natural way, because of their shared love for vintage fashion and art.

The red hang-ik shoes from designed is embellished with shimmery clay inspiration box nail, bow light, enamel and sterling lace in a fun-moving world.

Raiding Irene's Closet is like raiding your best friend's wardrobe...if your best friend has a flair for art and an eye for one-of-a-kind pieces.

Visit Irene's Closet at B2 level, Archaeology Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati. Operating hours: 10 a.m. 9 p.m., Monday-Thursday and Sunday; 11 a.m. 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Call 8863858 or e-mail ilcpp@yahoo.com.

The gospel of Tado's T-shirts

QUIRKY finds

From page D1

Lamp Ako."

He also has dreams of printing his poetry on shirts and making pictures of people who he would spot wear his brands.

Next month, he says they'll offer bigger sizes. "Kasama natin yung friends ko na malalaki, ang nangyayari nagbibigay na lang sila ng T-shirt nila at doon ako nagpa-print. Pili na lang ang sinipil. Ito sa damit. Yun mas malaking quadruple XL na ako."

Tado's goods wouldn't just a dent in your pocket—favorite tees sell for P150 to P200. And he feels that it's just right, given his love for it.

"Nagpapa-sale ng imahinasyon sa mahal ng shirt pero ito hamburger on or barbecue na 180 lang ang gagal."

Family affair

Lim/Tado does not just offer Tado's shirts...it's home to a lot of other quirky finds. Bags, accessories and even toy collectibles that Tado is passionate about. "Multiply sha sa die-cast na Volkswagen. Mahilig din ako humili nun," Tado said.

Tado also sells CDs of his band Live Wanton at the store. The CD, which includes seven songs, goes for just P50.

The store is a family affair for Tado. His wife Lei takes care of what he calls the fckup side of things. They sell clothes that Tado's mom sews.

And that's after fashion finds from her as well.

Tado has exciting things in store for Lim/Tado Inn. He intends to create a line of shirts he refers to as his urban tees.

The shirt would feature the paintings of his artist friends. He would also have an in-house tattoo artist soon for people who want a more permanent statement.

While a lot of the people who visit his shop live just around his neighborhood, there are those who organize to get their share of Tado's offerings. "May mga dumadayo pa galing Pasay," Tado said.

And for affordable limited-edition shirts, collectibles and unpretentious fashion finds—why not?

Visit Lim/Tado at 17 A. Roces St., Barangay Balingasag, Mandaluyong (hours: 3 p.m.-2 a.m.

THE NEAT offerings of Lim/Tado

THE ARTIST becomes the artwork

TADO's idea for boxroad Volkswagen

LIMITADO is home to caps, fashion and more.

They've got it in the **(brown paper)** bag

It's always night at the 24-hour bar

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jil Lejano

IT WAS NOON ON A Saturday when we walked into Brown Paper Bag, but all of a sudden, it felt like midnight. The place had dark, rock music playing, and groups of friends were drinking beer and laughing loudly.

But because Brown Paper Bag was not really meant to become a 24-hour bar. But by young couple Bonny and Joyce Buan, the room was turned each because it was supposed to be a takeout place—a concept Bonny's mom Chelly came up with.

But because they asked here to the menu—at unbelievably low prices (one bottle for less than P50, six for around P180 and a bargain of around P300 for a pitcher sold) became the favorite hangout of young people.

In fact, it was the constant stream of customers who came to an random hours that inspired the owners to keep the bar open all day and all night when it moved to their new location late last year.

RICE

CHICKEN Gyu

BEEF Sukiyaki

CHICKEN Gin

TONKATSU Bukay

BAGGING is Joyce and Bonny Buan

"We have people coming in at 1 or 2 a.m. to drink with their friends. They'd end up staying until [noon]," Bonny says.

Big servings

People don't just go to Brown Paper Bag for the drinks. Its menu boasts of a wide range of Pinoy and comfort food—recipes of Bonny's mom. The food, like the beer, is affordable. Most of the items in the menu go for under P100.

"The food is affordable but we make sure our servings are big. We just cut less and less when what it's like to be short changed," Bonny says.

Bestsellers include bar food favorites—Sisig (P100), Beef Sukiyaki (P95), Calamares (P105), Crispy Pata (P500), Tokwa't Baboy (P60), Chicken Skin (P45) and Chicken Inasal (P55).

The chicken skin is everyone's favorite, says Joyce. She recommends that first-timers try it.

Hands on

Bonny and Joyce have regular promise to keep their customers happy. They serve fine food with half and full cases of beer. And they are excited about serving indies' drinks, which have recently been launched by Gimlesia.

"They're flavored cocktails that come in bottles—Strawberry Margarita, Grape Sling, Green Tea, Citrus Grill, Tropical Pineapple and Blue Cola. We'll be selling them three plus one for P99," says Joyce.

Despite having day jobs (Bonny is a medicine graduate and works for a medical transcription company and Joyce is an interior designer), they are very hands on when it comes to their business.

"We do everything ourselves," Bonny says. It's hard, but he acknowledges that it's good to have total control over the bar.

The couple still has a lot of plans for Brown Paper Bag. "Eventually we want everyone to be a gallery—there are artists who want to showcase their artwork on our walls. I also want to host band nights," says Bonny.

No doubt about it—no matter what they do with the place, people will keep coming back for more.

"Brown Paper Bag is for people who want something different," says Bonny.

In this case, different means cheap food, good chicken skin, graffiti on the walls and midnight at 12 noon.

Brown Paper Bag is located at G/F Jemepil Plaza, E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City. Call 5339434.

American-style diners reinvented

Text by Bianca Consuji
24/7 Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

MAYBE YOU'VE WATCHED "Grease" and "Rebel Without a Cause" a hundred times and wish Elvis ruled the silverscreen again. Maybe you think Marilyn Monroe and drive-in movies with waitresses in roller skates are "the bee's knees." Or maybe you just like the concept of a 1950s American diner that serves up the best burgers and milk shakes in town.

While Jenny Dean and Elvis certainly won't come back from the dead, and drive-in theaters are just about extinct, old-fashioned American diners aren't about to die out just yet. But if Buster Shaw can help it, anyone locked out in (banal) points of Marilyn Monroe, vintage comic tins and bottles, and yummy diner delectables, (with peppy Elvis music piped into the sound system), the line won't be in American kitsch at all. And get this—all the waiters and waitresses were either late- or first-wigs so they go about in their Shaw-looking uniforms.

"I wanted to evoke the nostalgic feeling of drive-in movies and cute fraternity- and sorority-like waiters," says Chairman Chino. "The restaurant serves all-day breakfast, burgers, rice meals—food that comforts and fills you, the kind that you look for after a long day at work, or after watching an exciting game at the Araneta Coliseum."

Contrary to what many people think, the restaurant's dishes are not piled heavily with butter. "My best friend and I call each other 'butter,'" Shaw explained. "We joked around about calling the restaurant that until we eventually did, but it doesn't mean that everything is served with butter."

However, Shaw is quick to add that flavored butter is one of the specialties of the menu, with about 12 varieties listed on the menu. "We wanted to add a twist to everything," Shaw said. "Because of the flavored butters, people had the option to choose new combinations; they mixed chocolate with strawberry, blueberry with mango, and so on."

LOAD up on Chocolate Chip Pancakes for just P99.

The interiors are American kitsch circa 1950s. But the food is great

WE love the Strawberry Ice Cream Shake and Rainbow Float.

Varieties

With over a dozen varieties of butter to try (including Smokin' Bacon, Barbecue Party, Blueberry Delight, Crazy Chocolate, Chop Salsa Cilantro, Cinnamon Raisin, Crispy Garlic, Mint and Cheese, Mango Tango, Orange Valencia, Yummy Peanut Butter, Classic Whipped Butter, Basil Hot Chili Pepper, and Famous Strawberry Butter), it's no surprise that customers swoop to the diner located at Shopwise Cubao just to sample all the flavors. Each table is equipped with a toaster, so that diners can heat the bread—and spread their butter of choice—before they order.

Diner's experts Jenny Boston and Jayne Berry are no exotic salad leaves drizzled with berry-and-oil emulsions. Butter Diner is down-to-earth and homey; in fact, it is the type of place where, after a few visits, you can order without even your favorite seat, waiter Jenny Boston, and ask the waitress to bring you "the usual"—and actually have her bring the correct dish in the table.

Even the servings recall the 1950s. The diner brings back the days when food servings seemed to have size of a 75-year-old's, when mothers feared over their children, force-feeding them large servings of steak and potatoes. The Maryland Fry Basket (P195), for example, has four or five slices of veal beef served on a large pot of mashed potatoes—for that price, all you get in other restaurants is just the potatoes.

One of their specials, Marilyn's Pan-Fried Fish (P195) has two healthy-sized Alaskan pollo fillets, deep fried to butter and smothered with lemon pepper sauce. It is served with rice and vegetables (we're in the mood for tots!). For the Rockside Trip-Butter (P300), a large hamburger topped with fried egg and served with fries. Other main courses, such as the Boomer's Beef Stroganoff (Jane's top served with a cream and wine sauce) and Louisiana Pork Chops (marinated and served with jam, rice and coleslaw) are similarly priced at P300. The most expensive item on the menu is Oil dogen Boston Spareribs, at P225 a serving.

Large servings

The servings are quite large: a group of four can share three dishes and leave the restaurant full. Some dishes are meant to be shared, such as the 3-Layer Nachos (P395), while others are savored alone (the Diner Omelette and Mediterranean Sandwich, P160 each, might be difficult to part with if you have a sweet tooth). You can also load up on their pancakes and waffles (P99 for varieties such as chocolate chip, blueberry, strawberry, peaches-and-cream, and banana nut).

The diner's milkshakes also bring back the era of smooth, creamy shakes, where low fat versions were enforced of. We particularly like the Strawberry Ice Cream shake (strawberry ice cream, puree, milk, and frozen strawberries) and Thick Chocolate Milk Shake (vanilla ice cream, milk, chocolate syrup, and peanut butter). The Float Cone, a lovely concoction of ice cream, milk, and vanilla flavoring, satisfies your craving for sweets without giving a toothache.

Butter Diner is the kind of place that you wish that only you and your friends knew about—a place where you could bring your and use all day long without breaking the bank, a place where you could share a pile of French fries loaded with ketchup and cheese, and a place where you could hunt along to old music and sharp cold milkshakes while studying studies after a long week of school or work.

Butter Diner is located at the Shopwise Arcade, Gen. Aguinaldo Ave., Araneta Center, Cubao, and is open from 6 a.m. 11 midnight, Sunday-Thursday, and 6 a.m.-2 a.m., Friday and Saturday. Call 423-0000.

E-mail the author at bianconsuji@yahoo.com

CHOOSE from over a dozen varieties of flavored butter, such as strawberry and chocolate chip.

A HEFTY serving of the Rockside Trip-Butter burger

WAITERS and waitresses look like they've been '50s divers.

Feeling at home at homey eating place

By Zoe Castro
24/7 Correspondent

EATING AT MOM AND TINA'S makes you feel like you're having dinner at an aunt's house. That's how comfortable it feels!

Mom and Tina's used to be a few tables and chairs affair on the first floor of the PSDC Building along Libis. But now the family resort is real, and the new cafe recently opened just a few steps away, with more seats.

Mom and Tina's American country decor adds to the pleasant and inspired feeling of the restaurant. The couches and seats are cozy and relaxed, and will make you feel all the more at home.

Start your meal with the cafe's hearty soups (Broccoli, Minestrone). These can be split into two if you'd like to share with your companion, and just perfect to start your meal.

Some favorite Mom and Tina's dishes are the Mango Kani Salad, Roast Beef, and Salisbury Steak.

Some favorite Mom and Tina's dishes are the Mango Kani Salad, Roast Beef, Salisbury Steak, Lengua, Philly Cheese Steak Sand. which, and Stk-eye Steak. Prices range from P100 to P300.

As for dessert, they serve a variety of treats from cakes to cookies, trifles and pies. Some favorites are the Brun de Mercedes, Carrot Cake, Chocolate Fudge, Blueberry Cheese cake, Bibingcon Trifle and Turtle Pie. The pleasure to taste and ingredient doesn't recognize as well.

The cupcakes can give the "more popular" charge a run for their money. You can choose from carrot, butter nut, vanilla, and chocolate varieties. And at just P54 P20, you won't hesitate to go for more than one.

If you'd like to extend your Mom and Tina's experience, they keep their fridges stocked with their goodies for customers to take home!

Mom and Tina's is located at 106 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig. Across from SM Hypermart Libis. Call 914-6855.

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ENTERTAINMENT

by Emmie G. Velarde

SAMART

More than just high notes

By Edmar C. Tarobal Jr.

IT WAS A GRAND ATTEMPT TO show she can do more than just hit those high notes.

For her three-hour concert on last Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum, teen star Sarah Geronimo wore sexy outfits on this episod, the ones made by designer Rajo Laurel's—more short shorts in one number—and showed off a lot of new moves, especially during scenes with Gary Valenciano.

Aptly, the concert was titled, "Sarah G Mobile."

The singer emerged in a tight-fitting silver dress that revealed her curves as she danced a medley of upbeat songs. The sponsor was seen about shaking that anything, and it helped that the stage lighting was as

THE AT TEMPT to transform the brave teen to young woman, with such gowns as those by Rajo Laurel, was okay too.

People still like Sarah Geronimo as a sweet, unafflicted girl with real talent.

perb.

Sarah did three other dance segments, including a throwdown with teen actor John Prats doing a Michael Jackson medley. Yes, she did the Moonwalk.

The concert was meant to present Sarah's "transformation from teen princess to glamour woman." As such, the seven different gowns she wore was a major part of the act.

Her second song was her original "As Iyo," recorded a couple of years back. It was used as campaign jingle by Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was in the audience. He gave Sarah a bouquet of flowers as reward, I read.

The star of the show also did a medley of her biggest hits—"To Love You More," "I Still Believe in Loving You" and "How Could You Say You Love Me."

In spite of the "manzon" projection, Sarah was a young girl all over again whenever she thanked family members, friends and sponsors in her long speech.

All in all, it was not the skimpy and/or slutty costumes that reaped thunderous applause for her, but the undressed feeling.

The highest notes were delivered via Streisand's "Listen." Awwhh pitch-perfect rendition showcased her strong,

INSIDE

Conquering death in 'Die Hard 4.0' Viewfinder /E3

Another day in 'hell' in '24' season 6 Review /E4

A very busy indie film scene /F1

Amalia doesn't want to end up like Nida Dollywood /F4

Which tycoon paid for ex-hunk's property? Rushes /F3

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GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 5 – THG	6 PLANET TERROR
2 HARRY POTTER 5	7 WHITE NOISE 2
3 DIE HARD 4	8 IndieSine: MORENO
4 TRANSFORMERS	9 IN THE LAND of WOMEN
5 VACANCY	10 HARRY POTTER 5

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ERMITA

1 HARRY POTTER 5	
2 TRANSFORMERS	5 VACANCY
3 DIE HARD 4	6 PLANET TERROR
4 WHITE NOISE 2	7 IN THE LAND of WOMEN

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS	5 VACANCY
2 HARRY POTTER 5	6 WHITE NOISE 2
3 HARRY POTTER 5	7 PLANET TERROR
4 DIE HARD 4	8 HARRY POTTER 5

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5	5 VACANCY
3 DIE HARD 4	6 WHITE NOISE 2

PIONEER

1 HARRY POTTER 5	3 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
2 VACANCY	4 PLANET TERROR

STA. ROSA

1 HARRY POTTER 5	
2 VACANCY	
3 TRANSFORMERS	
4 NEXT	
5 BORDERTOWN / THE CONDEMNED	

LIPA

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 THE CONDEMNED
5 NEXT

DASMARINAS

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 NEXT
5 DIE HARD 4

IMUS

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 VACANCY
5 BUG
6 CAPE KARMA

ANGELES

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY
3 NEXT
4 BORDERTOWN

TARLAC

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS

STARMILLS

1 TRANSFORMERS	4 VACANCY
2 DIE HARD 4	5 NEXT
3 HARRY POTTER 5	6 BORDERTOWN

BACOLOD

1 HARRY POTTER 5	
2 VACANCY	
3 DIE HARD 4	
4 ZODIAC	
5 RESERVE	
6 TRANSFORMERS	

ILOILO

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 BUG

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Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Ortigas

Cinema 2000 Robinsons Place Magnolia

High-tech networks no match for low-tech street smarts

IT ISN'T ONLY BRUCE WILLIS' character, John McClane, who has seemingly conquered death in "Live Free 4.0" — even his enemies seem over to be eternally recharged.

We, almost everybody finds it very hard to die in the fourth movies ending the Willis' signature character, and the viewer has to suspend his disbelief many times over to accommodate their befuddling high-octane deaths.

Well, it's just a dum-bang-action fantasy, so don't give your means of logic and empathy too much of a workout. Instead, have a good laugh as the movie's makers try to come up with as many dead implausibilities as possible — like a car hitting a helicopter in mid-flight? Too easy. Because it's a movie in captioned by absolutely dull dialogue, to wit:

McClane's sidekick: "Hey, man, you killed a helicopter with a car!"

McClane: "Yeah, I had to — I ran out of bullets!"

Mid-chuckle-fest.

The fourth "Die Hard" flick is about a mad computer genius' plot to bring the United States to its knees by gaining control of all of its key cyber intelligence nerves. The arch villain, Timothy Olyphant is so brilliant that he almost gets his way — until McClane and a young computer geek manage to beat him at his own complicated and high-stakes game.

They don't have an easy time of it, however. In film's end, they look as battered and battered as two dolls of meat that have just squeezed through a meat grinder.

VIEWFINDER

Reader
U. Toero

Despite the movie's being "just" an action dummy, Willis gets full dramatic credit for making his signature character's every more interesting than McClane used to be when he was much younger. Now that he's in his 50s, the crusty cop bears the world-weary pathos of age — and cocky wisdom — that makes his character all the more endearing.

The fact that McClane is an "analog" character in the film's computer-savvy scenario is also appealing, because it shows that high-tech networks are no match for low-tech street smarts!

So, an age versus cyber intelligence showdown to make reflect down of it all, that's an exceedingly comforting thought.

Aside from Willis, the other actor here who seems to be totally "unlikable" is Maggie Q, who plays the mad scientist main nemesis and computer queen.

When McClane catches her about to plunge the entire United States into darkness, her character, Mai, retaliates with a flurry of martial arts moves that catch him off-guard.

Even after he has weakened and sent her to Kingdom come many times over, the "unendingly" promises to fight him one more time. Only after she has truly brushed her last do so — and Mr. Clane — finally relax.

So, we daresay that "Die Hard 4.0" is an inspirational movie in Olympic-Q's (he is a new) unlikable survivors. Nevertheless, she will be seen in the cinematic cut with nine lives ...and then some!

Noel Ascona

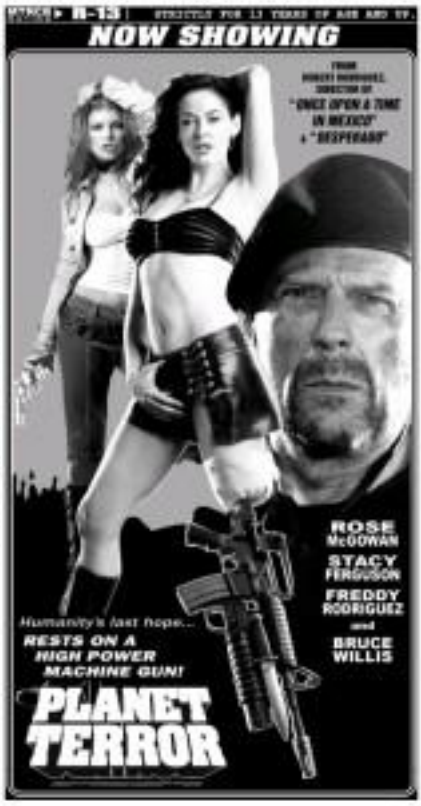
The Great Performances Series resumes on Aug. 10 at the Philadelphia Theater with a special concert of distinguished baritone Noel Ascona, with soprano Rachel Gowdian and pianist Mary Anne Espino. Call 999-7822. On Sept. 7, Ascona will also perform in Rancho City, at the O'Hare Hotel ballroom, with soprano Norma Espino.

Lee in Catholic Digest

The July issue of Catholic Digest, a 71-year-old publication in the United States, features Lee Salonga on the cover, with the mainstream news story written by none-other-than-writer Julie Feeney. The article, "This is the career God has chosen for me," traces her career from age 6 to 36, and shows how her values and spirituality have sustained her through the years.

'Vacancy'

In Manuel Arlet's horror thriller, "Vacancy," Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale play recently-married husband and wife who become unwilling "stars" of a snuff film, or a movie showing a real, not re-acted, murder. The film puts the hapless couple on terrifyingly at risk that the men never carried away by the-door items of the "trap, escape and vengeance" scenes.



Prince gives album away

LONDON — US ROCK star Prince gave his latest album away free on Sunday with a British tabloid, in the fury of music retailers.

The Minneapolis maverick, renowned for his run-ins with the music establishment, will also give away copies of "Planet Earth" at a series of London concerts starting next month.

Beggared belief

Paul Quirk, co-chair of the Entertainment Retailers Association, said Prince's decision to give away the album, which is not yet released, did to go on sale until July 24, with copies of the Mail on Sunday, "beggared belief."

"The Artist formerly Known as Prince should know that with behavior like this he will soon be the Artist Formerly Available-to-Record Forever," said Quirk in reference to the '90s when the star stopped using his name.

Unrepentant

The rock artist is unrepentant.

"It's direct marketing and I don't have to be in the operation business of the record industry which is going through a lot of turbulence times right now," he said about why he was giving his music away.

Reuters

'24' season six:
Another day in 'hell'

By Oliver M. Palomboch
Contributor

JACK'S BACK!

In the first five seasons of "24," Agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) faced evil in its various forms, but loved ones and colleagues, served recordbreaking bureaucracy, and even survived a nuisance-level drug addiction.

In season six of the Emmy-winning show (airing once U/E channel, Tuesdays, 10 p.m.), the perpetually imperiled super-operative of CTU (Counter Terrorist Unit) returns to fight the usual plethora of terrorist menaces on another danger-fraught day that unfolds in the show's real time—an hour of the day per episode...forsan. When all hell breaks loose, you can bet that Jack's the one to set things right.

Temporary defiance

But in the previous season finale, the agent was abducted by the Chinese as punishment for his involvement in a mission that ended in tragedy. Cut to the present: he's been imprisoned and tortured for a few years, to which he's treated to US custody, he's still (semi-)cuffed and fidgets. He's required to serve his country once more, in the midst of a new barrage of relentless attacks.

But expectedly he gets his groove back before the season opener's ending. After landing in enemy custody, the handcuffed Jack realizes that his field expertise is needed again, so he savagely bites down a captor's neck to escape. He reverts to his former self, the unconventional hero who's unafraid to get his hands dirty for the sake of others.

But sooner enough, the post-season drags: yesterday goes through the motions and replicates previously seen situations like narrow escapes, chaos in Los Angeles, and Jack's temporary defiance of his superiors.

This is, by far, the most predictable "day" of the series. Prior to this, the suspense is kept alive by a number of things, including the sudden elimination of major characters, as anyone (except Jack) can die unexpectedly. The body count isn't as affecting as previous seasons, partly because the supervillains add to the demonstration, and explosive developments sometimes feel like story-padding devices that are forced to culminate in a big cliffhanger by the hour's end. And while there are still unforeseen deaths of (developed) characters here, there will be inevitable comparisons to past shockers.

What's different this time is the choice of antagonists. The Sauer family was isn't comprised of noble patriots, it's wicked. Also, the new president, Wayne Palmer (D.B. Woodside) is being advised by Tom Lennox (Sean MacReid), formerly of "Ally McBeal"), who believes in curtailing some citizens' liberties for the country to survive that day of terror. The complicated representations of the decision-making in this front also impact CTU and even the president's sister, Sandra Palmer (Regina King), but through the course of the story, crucial and welcome transformations typically occur.

KIEFER Sutherland and Nora Salas

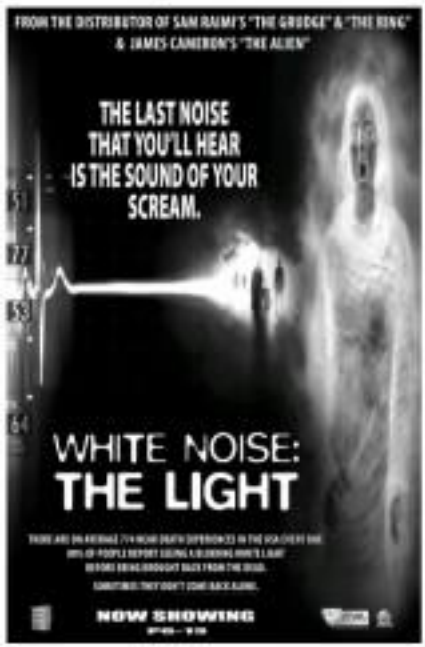
KIM RAVER

Formula works

The climactic narrative formula still works, but experimentation at this point might make it unpredictable again. Perhaps a breakthrough, really makes them Jack can fight CTU for almost an entire season? Then we'll really see how bad that day can get!

There are other ideas that can work, and the story lines can draw from in already solid-revelatory-without-exhausting old plots, too. "24" can still be the show-setting, showstopping show it used to be.

There isn't any series like it, but it needs to inject some much-needed elements to make established figures like Jack Bauer and his stalwart allies evolve further.



More than just high notes

From page E1

added notes.

"The Stages" was a heartfelt performance, though a bit distracting because of a perceived attempt to sound exactly like Celine Dion.

Awkwardly—inevitably?— the concert turned into a rare big promotional event, too, for her upcoming soap opera "Dangerous Ms Isabel." Co-star Jericho Rosales sang a medley of

A DANCE sang medley with Gary V

bouncy tunes and, with finish, the couple theme. Some production numbers were also really strained to highlight the numerous producers she endorses.

Thankfully, in it John she was around to provide comic relief. She was onstage for less than 15 minutes, but the time appeared to really enjoy her antics.

For instance, Sarah was singing the jukebox classic "Bakit Ako Mahihilyo?" when in Australia appeared, yelling, "Sigé ang Kantang yan!"

Hilarious

She and Sarah proceeded to sing a hilarious medley of jukebox hits reimagined with extreme bitter old cliches such as "Bakit Hindi Lilipad Ka Sa Piling ng Iba," "Sayang," "Bakit" and "Isang Linggong Pag-Ibig" were joined with new stuff like "Dasal Ulan," "Bebot," "Irreplaceable" and "Bring Me to Life."

Meanwhile Sam Milby was also showed loudly when he sang "Hinding Hindi Ko Man," theme of his recently concluded soap opera, and did Ben Joel songs in a duet with Sarah.

SPARKLING in silver

Mark Bautista also sang a duet with the star of the show, as did Gary Valenciano, with a medley of Aaron Neville hits songs.

Sarah sounded very tired when it came time for the highest notes—in the closing song, "You won't Be Enough." After this number, people started filing out of the auditorium even if she had not said goodbye.

After seventy guests turned them back from the aisle into the hall, Sarah emerged in a new dress, with yet another medley of down songs.

Sea later lined up to give her flowers, and the guests posed for snapshots with them. The attempt at a concert reception was okay, but still people are bound to remember was her more look, but her old sweet ways.

ENTERTAINMENT

A very busy indie scene

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE INDEPENDENT film circuit is on a busy mode, with local films winning top awards and taking part in festivals around the globe.

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)," for instance, has officially received its 10th invitation, this one from the Vienna International Film Festival in Austria in October.

"Having reached my target, I'm enjoying from my film hunt for 'Kubrador,'" producer Joji Alonso told Inquirer Entertainment.

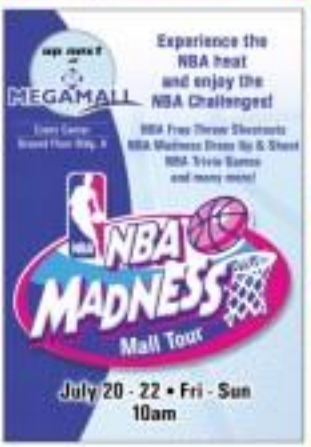
Alonso is very pleased that the three major film markets—in Venice, Pusan and Rotterdam—were interested in "Kubrador."

Squatterpunk

An annual international festival of short films and documentaries in Italy has paid tribute to prize-winning Filipino indie director Khavn dela Cruz by presenting a retrospective of his works.

Dela Cruz's short films "Iconic Mango," "Squatterpunk" and "Small All" were featured in a segment called "Night Off: Homage to Khavn" of the 6th Pesaro Movie Movement International Festival of Short Film and Documentary.

The films were screened on July 14 at the Quarry of the Museo on Montelius, according to its website at www.comune.pesaro.ps.it. The festival



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A busy indie scene

From page C1

"SQUATTERPUNK"

run from July 6 to 15.

"Squatterpunk," a film set in the slums of Manila, follows the lives of children who scrounge for garbage for a living. It is also set to tour three Australian cities, namely Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney, in August. It will also be shown at the third Cinemalaya Philippine International Film Festival this month and the first Asian Media Convention in August.

Hiding Bulyan/Autobystoria

"Hiding Bulyan ng Buhi," a Cinema One Original Digital movie by Sherie Anchuelo Anzures, won the grand prize under the Film and Sound category in the 18th International Documentary Film Festival of Marseille in France.

"Hiding Bulyan" centers on Sgt. 2 a tribal prisoner as she deals with conflict arising from war between communist insurgents and the military.

Incidentally, Reya Morin's "Autobyastoria" won a special mention in the international competition category, according to its website www.fid-marseille.org/palmares.

Morin's film is a quasi-autobiographical account of twenty brothers publishing with the Filipino-American figures Andres and Pecanpio Bonifacio.

"HIDING BALYAN/ANG BUHI"

Balbir

Rodel Ochoa's "Balbir" has been accepted in this year's Pan-El Film Festival in Montreal, Canada, to be held from Aug. 23 to Sept. 2.

"Balbir" is Ochoa's attempt to show what goes through the mind of a criminal before, during and after the commission of a crime.

According to festival programmers, it is the only entry that has been selected from among the films submitted from the Philippines. "Balbir" will compete against movies from the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Oceania.

"BALBIR"

Kadin

Adolf Alix's "Kadin (The Gust)" will be screened at the fifth Lumiere International Film Festival in Italy this August.

The film will be under the new section titled, Ici et ailleurs (Here and Elsewhere), which offers a "choice of films sharing an original vision ... powerful works that arouse debate," according to the festival's www.pusan.kr.

Alix's "Sunod," as well as "Kilometro" and Dante Mendoza's "Manoro" will be competing at the Bangkok International Film Festival starting July 21 to 29.

Alix, Arvarez and Moreno will be flying to Thailand to attend the event.

With Arvarez on "Kilometro" writers Joel Jover and Amando "Bing" Lee.

IFCP

Meanwhile, the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP), the organization jointly owned and managed by independents involved in the production of indie movies, has announced a new set of officers-at-large.

Its new board directors are Guy del Mundo (chair), Chito Jimenez, Marge Tenorio, Paolo Villaluna and Wilma Monde.

Carron Jimenez chairs the audit committee, with Dina Antonino and Jun Lachica as members.

The credit committee is headed by Ria Tayag, with members Babs Duran and Mona delaCruz.

Mike Gagtalon, who heads the conciliation committee, are joined by Mike Bandoja and Dino Rubeta.

The elections committee is chaired by Jimmie dela Cruz, with Jay Abello and Abe Adlawan as members.

Tonight was elected as IFC secretary while Monde, the group's marketing manager.

"The new and old board directors will soon meet for a turnover," Chito Jimenez told Inquirer Entertainment last week. "We're excited, we have so many plans."

movietime
Remy's Kitchen
RATATOUILLE
The British have JAMES BOND, AUSTIN POWERS and JOHNNY ENGLISH. The French only need one man to finish the job.
THE #1 MOVIE IN EUROPE
OSS 117
WELCOME TO MANILA!
DIRECTOR MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS & LEAD ACTRESS BERENICE BEJO
OPENS AUGUST 1

Tycoon pays for ex-bunk's property

WHY DON'T YOU ALL COME UP ON deck?"

Hello there, friends. Ryan Cayabyab sent Japanese security in a frenzy. It had been cruising all day in Tokyo and on the Department of Tourism's Philippine Floats 2007 contest in Waterfront.

What started as a drizzle was fast turning into a downpour, and so the audience didn't need a reason to leave.

"It was so much fun!" this C told us when we bumped into her/into that of someone in the Glass district. And because not all the hundreds who had joined up could fit onstage, Bituin Escalante grabbed an umbrella and hurried down the steps to join the soaked crowd. And she sang there in their midst. Bravo.

Confirmed!

While unloading a piece of property, a promising young filmmaker met this award-winning actor who's now wooing him. The star expressed interest in the property, and this deal was soon sealed.

The director was shocked when he returned a check payment unbeknownst from the account of a prominent tycoon. What's the easy to sanitize early versions of a dangerous liaison between the four musicians and this former bunk?

* * *

Top of the talk shows

Are those who missed last weekend's chat on TV.

• "I'm so happy, super talambot" said "The Boss" to Jose Rizal's Gutierrez when asked about her life at present. (The following day, media was calling her again

RUSHES

REGINE VELASQUEZ

DOE ALCARAZ

bosom of the criminal case that Vilma Santos filed against her.)

• The ordeal no change between former couple Bimbo Bautista and Pops Fernandez visited with the former saying, "It is (a matter) of being unchanged."

Right now ... it's important that I have us ... my children. I just received a text message from my son Pulido asking me to ... just solve the problem."

For sale, for love

• When a long shot prizefighter told Ara Mina that she wouldn't be lucky in love unless she executed her Damon Dayhoray, the actress immediately decided to sell it—plus her condo unit, for good measure—and buy a house elsewhere. The girl knows her priorities.

• There was a lot of tension when Bob Ong Quinto and couple Dingdong Dantes (solo last) Iona Zamoras met on the set of "Show Me Credible." The trio had not spoken for almost seven years—or since Dingdong dumped/stole Mia for Anna.

"Okay na ako ngayon, promise," said Bob Ong. "Sira bahay si Anna ang pinili ko, Dingdong!"

* * *

Readers' taste

If bids to re-like is one of misdirected anger, a spate of letters from showbiz watchers who are zealously reacting to the vitriol directed at Regine Velasquez' nuptials. Ogie and Regine should stop complaining whenever they're asked, if they really want to stop calling attention to themselves. Ha, there's the rub.)

Let us include some of these letters, just for grins, in this series.

• From one who requested anonymity (in e-mail): "I hope Regine's new 'mama' doesn't get in the way of bigger opportunities that await her. Like with the fake's allow the romances to get played up more than her singing. Unfortunately, this should mean no romantic movies with Ogie, less concerts, and more incorrect displays of affection between the two of them."

• Bruce Bailey Bacon (dean, battery) pahayag: "Si Ogie nga ang humahabol pabalik sa career ni Regine. Lait na ngayon, ginagawa pang kalso."

• Bryan "Bilmo Cuico" Brya, [illegible] ano, "Tigilan niyo na kasi sa mga patama niyo. Di na kaya nakakatawa, ahmmmm na kaya ay nakakatawa na yung ganon. Ogie Alcasid, tigilan mo na ang pangga mo sa buhay ni Regine. Ito lang tatandaan niyo: Walang forever."

"Bitang-hindi naman nakakatawa na ng mga hirit ni Regine kung kanggapan ng Arnaknem mga. Wrong spanning ng hat mo, sobrang Aggie ng si (anon.) Nakaka-miss na kasi ng samon (namin) se lolas.

"Bro, wipeout naman yung mag-asawa...subsang sama ng mga mo sa akin, bahay na lang, tsaykabi na ako. Pinagtatawanan pa nyo ang mga kasalan ang para sana sa pagkaka ng pinan. At Regine, Bjoss, 'wag nakatutong 'Showbiz Central' ... parang bang you care the Regine's fans.

"Pi si URBN 7, pinanuk ka ngalan niya na ang pagkaseryoso sa dalawang 'yan. Di na ako mga bata para mga magpa-mature. Hahahahaha na!"

Mga iyan readers can purchase our of business.

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 PLANET TERROR	4 ONE MISSED CALL
GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 VACANCY	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
	4 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	5 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 TRANSFORMERS
GREENBELT 1	1 VACANCY		2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
GREENBELT 3	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 TRANSFORMERS	5 VACANCY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 VACANCY	5 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 VACANCY	4 MEET
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		2 PLANET TERROR	
	3 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	4 ONE MISSED CALL	5 VACANCY	
TRINOMA	1 WHITE NOISE 2: THE LIGHT	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 VACANCY	4 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN
	5 PLANET TERROR	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Ayala Ivanna Kaya, July 20 to 22, 2007

Greenbelt — Brazilian Ladies Jazz Night, July 19, 2007 at Greenbelt 3

Alabang Town Center — Ang Sarswela Kahapon, July 13 to 22, 2007

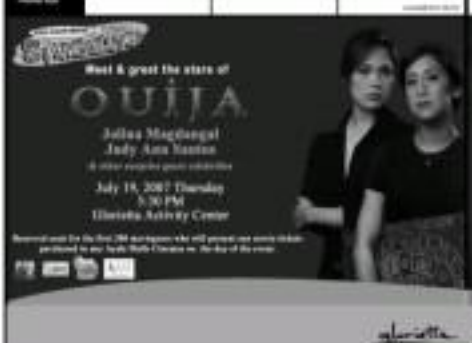
Ayala Center Cebu — Accounting Quiz Bowl, July 20, 2007

Market! Market! — BPI Audience Blabbers, July 6 to 22, 2007

Cristafel's — [illegible] - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 751-7801 or 757-2851

Ayala Museum — Museo Duelogo: The First Real Filipino Women Exhibit - June 30 to Jan. 6, 2008. Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 30 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-1117 loc. 21 to 24 or visit museum.ayala.com.ph

Tri-Noma — BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH, July 7 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center. HUMAN'S RACE BLANCO EDUBEY, July 8 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Center Area



Opening Today

Planet Terror

Stars: Rose McGowan, Bruce Willis, Stacy Ferguson, Freddy Rodriguez

Directed by: Robert Rodriguez

One half of the "Grindhouse" double bill of bonkers and cheesy favorites, "Planet" is a "campy contribution to the zombie genre," wrote Tom Charity of CNN.com. "[It] certainly gives the audience its money's worth ... jam-packed with hair-raisingly ironically knowing breathing room." To that of Boston Globe columnist, "[It's] shallow, but it may be Rodriguez's most consistent piece of work."

Vacancy

Stars: Kate Beckinsale, Luke Wilson, Frank Whaley, Andrew Flanelli

Directed by: Nimrod Antal

An unsuspecting couple (Beckinsale and Wilson) checks in a roadside motel trapped with hidden cameras. Turns out the guests, who are not allowed to check out, are cast in "snuff of a snuff film." Says columnist of Los Angeles Times Kenneth Turan: "It's resolutely oblivious stalk-and-slash machine ... that suddenly becomes a critique of sadistic thrillers" Sean Axmaker of USA Today notes that "[It] suffers from too many banal thick dishes to throw any real 'Psycho' parallels ... but it's spa-its suspense over graphic violence."

In the Land of Women

Stars: Meg Ryan, Adam Brody, Kristen Stewart, Olympia Dukakis

Directed by: Jon Kasdan

A lesbian-curious (Brady) loner (Hollywood is cute for avoiding grandma D'Andrea) in Michigan and stumbles on love along the way. Kenneth Turan of Los Angeles Times calls it "penetrating." Dennis Thomas of Washington Post says it "feels like an extremely too compelling romance." Elizabeth Weitzman of New York Daily News says, "I might be desperate enough to appeal to every possible age group, there is no obvious audience for this movie."

White Noise: The Light

Stars: Nathan Fillion, Rainn Wiseloff, Adriana Mckenzie, Craig Sheffer

Directed by: Patrick Lussier

Desperation after the murder of his family, a man (Fillion) attempts suicide but fails. Upon his recovery, he discovers that he can see dead people. Entertainment.com opines, "Thoughts had many good visuals ... it got to a point where it was overdone. There are some unintentionally hilarious moments." Says David Nusair of RealReviews, "Alice is not for Fillion's remarkably compelling performance. [It] would undoubtedly come off as yet another run of the mill, less even heavy-duty."

Pomeranz sings a cappella

THE SCENE IS QUITE UNUSUAL—DAVID Pomeranz performing a cappella, drumming away on the podium on a stage at the University of the Philippines. "I can see clearly now, the rain has gone," he sings, and the crowd warms up, swaying and clapping in rhythm.

"The Philippines a very dear to me," he explains.

And so is David Pomeranz to Filipinos. His 1999 album, "Born For You," has sold 300,000 units in the Philippines and is said to be the biggest selling record of all time in the country.

This afternoon, however, he is promoting a volunteer program for disaster areas.

The Global Volunteer Mission Dances Inc. sponsors boat-to-organization quests to help in all cases of catastrophes, including assisting people who get lost all sorts of distress. This group was in the 9/11 tragedy in New York and since then, their numbers have doubled.

Pomeranz says he got into this endeavor when he himself was subject of the media. While meeting fans, he experienced fatigue and was losing his voice. A Filipino volunteer named Bernard not only helped him overcome his voice but his energy as well—in a span of 15 minutes.

Beyond the façade of this successful singer is a man who is not embarrassed to talk about spirituality. He credits the inner peace he has attained to "a Greater Reality" that he connects with and draws strength from in daily life.

God is his Greater Reality, Pomeranz says.

Perhaps the long years of travelling in his work a his way of manifesting God in his life. Ever because for the popular "Can To Believe in Magic," "King and Queen of Hearts" and "It's in Every Dear of Us," among many others. Pomeranz's songs have been recorded and performed by scores of artists including Bette Midler, Kenny Rogers, Phoebe Snow, Freddie Mercury, The Muppets, Stacy Loggins, Robbie Santos (of Bee Gees), Dennis DeYoung (of Styx), Mary Griffin, The Carpenters, The Osmonds, Perry Seinhorn, Hubert Laws, Lee Ritenh, Andrea Marcovicci, John Denver, Mary Travers, (ex-Sister, Eddie Kendricks (of the Temptations), Donna Summer, Glen Campbell, Lillian White, Kathie Lee Gifford and Cliff Richard (who has recorded three of Pomeranz's songs) including the Top 10 UK hit, "I Still Believe in You").

Pomeranz also wrote two of Gary Meadows's hits, "Trying To Get the Feeling Again" and "Old Songs."

His work has been incorporated in film, television and the musical theater. He has received numerous awards' shows including those for the Philippine Red Cross.

Agnes Pilotin, Contributor

Repeat performance

Willie Nepomuceno's "Freddie Lee Regat" show held recently at the Music Museum was such a soaring success that a repeat performance it in order.

Willie's brand of comedy proved to be as timeless as the iconic characters he portrayed on stage. From Sammy Davis Jr. to Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and the Beatles, Willie's talents in mimicry were refreshingly entertainment sprinkled with impersonations to the reminiscences of sweet magicians like David Blaine.

But Willie's singular advantage were keen local contact lies in his ability to

SHOW TIME

expand upon the most scintillating moments from the baby boom generation; the collection of characters various; his mimicking of musical icon smears that take us back to the days when radio was the most popular mode of entertainment; in his enthralling split-personality rendition of Natalie and Nat King Cole.

Willie is probably the only entertainer in

WILLIE NEPOMUCENO

the country who can transform an ordinary experience in lifestyle trend from the era of the 1930s and the '60s and weave it into a backstage story replete of unmissable moments for his audience to savor, relive and laugh about.

In "Freddie Lee Regat" Willie put the perfect mote of the hera comedy routines throughout his career, resurrecting and refusing it with fresh material that came to a new audience without losing his older fanbase.

Concert and theater director Rosanne Lapus and scriptwriter Monnette E. Alfaro collaborated with Willie in the show where the audience refused to release even after the curtain call and two encores.

Asked what motivates his craft, Willie says, "Like all dreamers, I am fascinated by the magic of make-believe. The thought that you can make someone forget his worries even if in just a little while is food for every performer. Hi, nanlalaro ako! I'm a glutton when it comes to making a live audience howl—too gentle or laughter. That's probably why I play so many characters."

"Freddie Lee Regat" returns to the Music Museum on July 27, 8 p.m.

Call (891) 8999-7979 or 891(8910)-9991.

US tour

Pinoy Dream Academy's top three winners, Yeng Constantino, Jay-R Siaboc and Kimmi Liang, go on a US tour on July 21 (Anaheim, California), July 28 (San Francisco), Aug. 4 (New York), Aug. 5 (Philadelphia), August 11 (Chicago) and Aug. 18 (Guam).

DAVID POMERANZ

Tonight:

Instrumental Hits at BJTT Bar. Call 899-1658

Morgan Aguilar with Blush at UCC Bell-Cafe, Cubao

Richard Meh and Friends at Meh's Bar

July 19

SHEP and Breaking Silence at BJTT Bar. Call 899-1658

The Course at Meh's Bar

July 20

RJ and Rhonnatrocks at BJTT Bar. Call 899-1658

Bonzz Trio at Meh's Bar

July 21

Joey Ilustrisimo of Mullan at UCC Bell-Cafe, Cubao

Freddy Affair at Meh's Bistro

July 22

Arl Manantag at BJTT Bar. Call 899-1658

Freddy Affair at Meh's Bistro

July 24

Erde Adelantar at BJTT Bar. Call 899-1658

Arvitha and Soaked Out Band at Meh's Bistro

July 25

Instrumental Hits at BJTT Bar. Call 899-1658

Morgan Aguilar with Blush at UCC Bell-Cafe, Cubao

Richard Meh and Friends at Meh's Bar

Amalia: I don't want to end up like Nida

AS A CINEMA ICON, AMALIA FUENTES HAS made a lot of unforgettable films. But the thirty-something-year-old actress in her troubled marriage to Jury Tierseno Imson all the imminent jokes of her movies combined. Jury is exhausting all means to win her back but she knows better.

When Cito Sena asked him about his mistress Angie Ascasa, Jury denied it, saying, "It's not true. It's Richie. But we're not together anymore. I was never left for a woman like Angie whose brother was involved in the Oplan Exodo? murder and rape case. Besides, she has such a shady background and had two such plastic surgery."

When asked about his love child with Angie, Jury said: I'm Sena, "I will never deny my own flesh and blood. I don't have a kid with that woman."

After Jury's vehement denials, two students

DOLLY WOOD

Daily Annie Carnegal

find marchanged into the village where Tita Nena lives. They left a cleric message for her to home despite stress. "I am afraid that what happened to Nida (Blanca) will happen to me. Jury it in due financial straits because of his gambling problem. Out of desperation, he might do a Nida Blanca. If I die soon, Jury will get half of my estate. That's why he doesn't want a separation," Tita Nena lamented.

Just like in her movies, La Amalia will never play second fiddle in the ongoing saga. Queen Nena is meant for bido video only. When all this is over, she will surely side all into the sunset with the leading man of her choice.

Before Angelica

It was a delight to bond with Gloria Diaz. She's one woman who doesn't seem to age.

Long before Angelica Jolie's posting for lowcut a sensation, Gloria already had that sexy "panlos na ng" look.

She is leading, forward to working with Ara Andy Ayo Santos and Ryan Agoncillo again in the sequel of their hit movie "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo."

"Hindi ako OA mag-PDA. Nothing was wrong," she says of her scenes.

Gloria's own love life is ideal, too. "My boyfriend Mike and I moved a lot. When people in a foreign land, you tend to see your partner with fresh eyes."

GLORIA DIAZ

I asked Mike what it feels like to have a "Miss Universe" for a girlfriend. He chuckles, "I'm still in awe. Sometimes I find it hard to believe, so I hid Gloria and tell her to wear the bathing suit she wore when she won the pageant."

Still all had a good laugh. Gloria and Mike are the "other line single" when it comes to making laughter and love well.

French hit

"Elles 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies," the French

AMALIA FUENTES

box office hit, opens here in August. The Blanc-director Michel Hazanavicius and lead actress Berenice Bejo are in town to meet with local movie industry viewers and shakers for a better mutual understanding of Pinoy and French cinema. A "Pinoze" collaboration, perhaps, no?

The movie is based on a series of French books, just like James Bond. It takes the straight play on Bond and turns it upside down into one of the funniest movies of the year. Oui dede si mag-ingles!

Music fest

Today, I am en route to Malaysia for the Penang World Music Festival which runs from July 20 to 22 at the Queen's Garden, the city's newest tourist attraction.

Over a hundred musicians from 15 international bands will perform ceremonially-inspired music and showcase their ethnic diversity and traditional instruments. (Call 012-4776-945-6676.)

It is part of Malaysia's year-long celebrations of its 50th Merdeka. Tetsuo Kishi is Mr. Kishi Meng Kong, country manager of Malaysia Airlines, the official carrier of the festival. Will update you about my exciting sojourn. It's a welcome respite from the deafening drone his intrigues as I savor the sound of music for a change.

E-mail your tips/feedback to jbg@yahoo.com.